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SPORTS REVIEW

Wrestling

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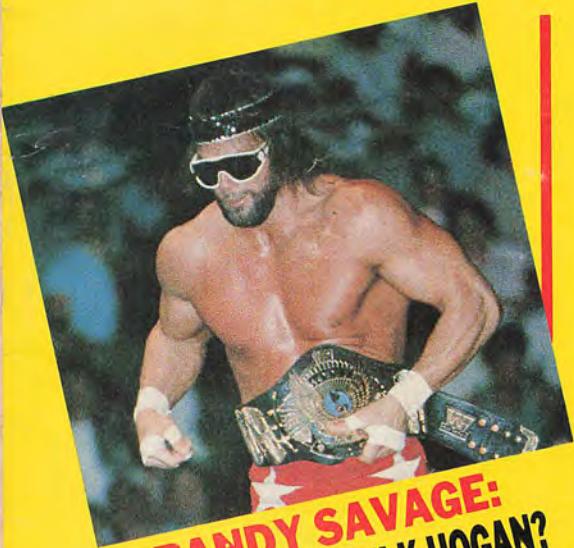


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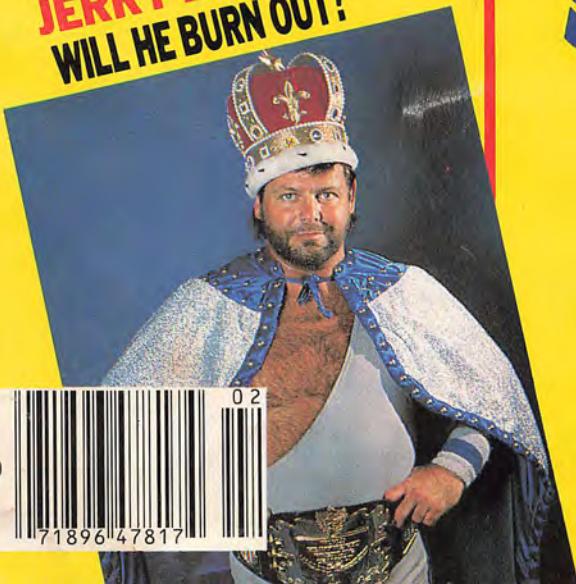
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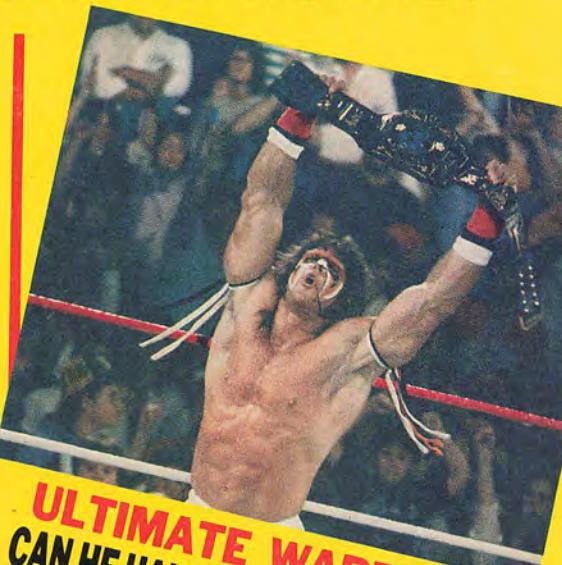
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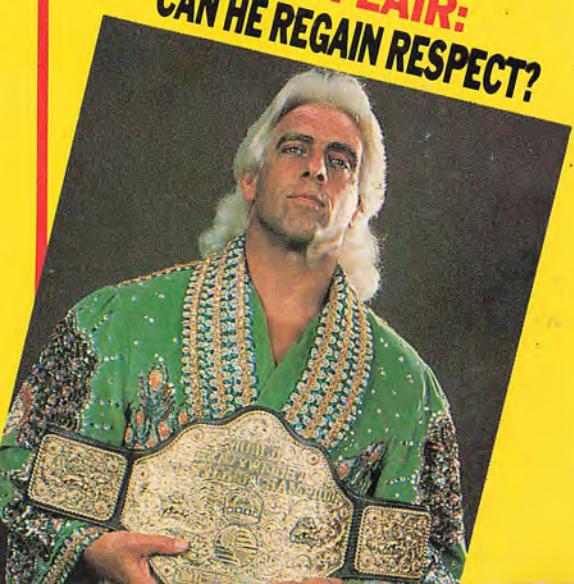
RANDY SAVAGE:
WILL HE FACE HULK HOGAN?
JERRY LAWLER:
WILL HE BURN OUT?



WHAT
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ULTIMATE WARRIOR:
CAN HE HANDLE THE PRESSURE?
RIC FLAIR:
CAN HE REGAIN RESPECT?



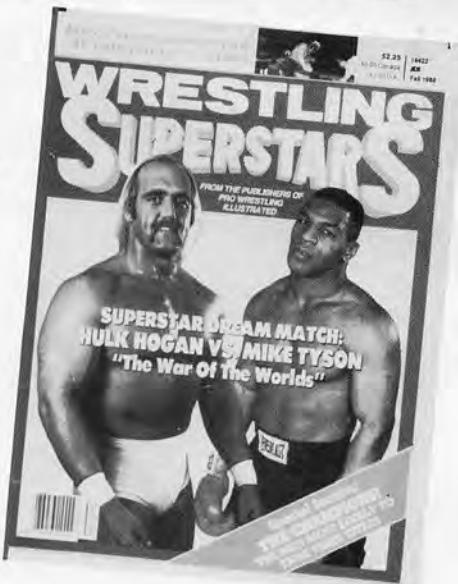
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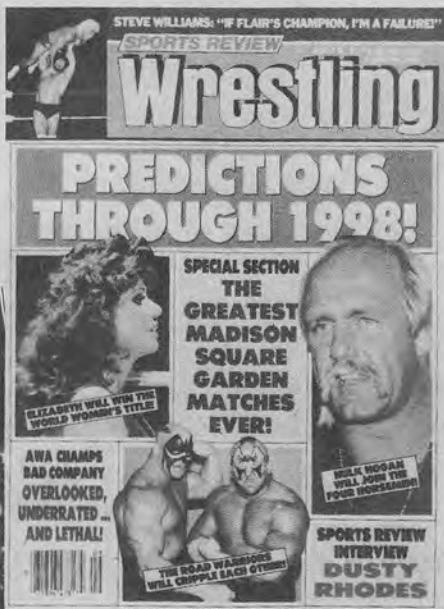
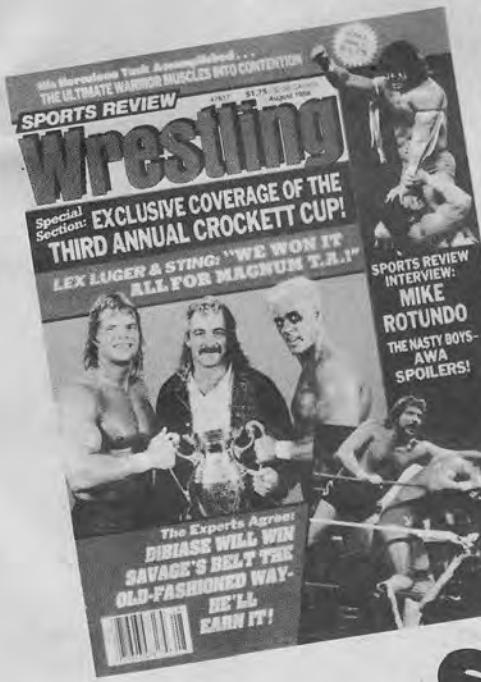
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M A I L B A G

SEND LETTERS TO:

MAILBAG
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The Rock 'n' Roll Express has split up and reunited so many times that even the team's biggest fans are confused. The Express are now contending for the AWA World tag title.

ROCKIN' OUT

I was disappointed—but not surprised—to read about the breakup of The Rock 'n' Roll Express in your November 1988 issue ("The Rock 'n' Roll Express Breaks Up! Who's To Blame?"). I feel that the responsibility for this lies with both Rick Morton and Robert Gibson—but *most* of the blame rests with Rick Morton.

This was not a one-man show, but a fine tag team. Rick almost always dominated all of their TV interviews, while Robert did his talking in the ring. Rick also seemed to get the majority of the credit for Express victories, which wasn't really fair.

Remember, it was *Robert* who defended the NWA World tag team title alone against Tully Blanchard and Arn Anderson when Rick was injured. Most men would have been intimidated wrestling alone against two of The Four Horsemen, but Robert was brave enough to rise to the occasion.

Robert, you always did what you believed was right. I stand behind you all the way!

WENDI BRYANT
Madison Heights, VA

Thankfully, your article in the November 1988 issue didn't hold up for long. While The Rock 'n' Roll Express did indeed split up, it was only a matter of weeks before they were back together again, establishing themselves as the top contenders to the AWA World tag team title.

Hopefully they've seen the error of their ways once and for all. I can't imagine either Gibson or Morton duplicating all the success they've had as a tag team with other partners, or even by trying to win singles titles.

There has never been a team in wrestling history that blends as well as these two great competitors. Luckily for me and other Express fans, Rick and Robert are well on their way to ending the title reign of Pat Tanaka and Paul Diamond. This kind of good news doesn't come a minute too soon!

Rick Morton was right. Rock 'n' Roll will *never* die!

AUDREY SIMONS
Rochester, NY

SOUR ON CELEBRITIES

I'm writing to comment on an absolutely stupid segment. I'm referring to

the new "Celebrity Corner" interviews that air on AWA broadcasts on ESPN. This is the most ridiculous concept since the WWF introduced wrestling ice cream bars!

The last thing anybody wants to see is a celebrity talk segment on a wrestling program. The celebrities don't even talk about wrestling! They just use this valuable air time to promote their new movies.

Both the AWA and WWF should learn that what wrestling is all about is top-quality action. The NWA and World Class don't have to resort to such tactics, they just feature great competition—and *that's* what makes wrestling great!

SCOTT ALLEN
Yukon, OK

FOOLISH FANS

I couldn't agree more with your article in the November 1988 issue ("Memo To All Wrestling Federations:

Leave It To The Fans? You've Gotta Be Kidding!"). Putting vital decisions in the hands of the fans is something that should never happen in professional wrestling—or in *any* sport.

Look at what happens in Major League Baseball. The fans have had the right to vote for the annual All-Star teams since 1969, and every year they make uneducated, ridiculous choices. This past year, they voted in minor league refugee Terry Steinbach—a platoon player—as the starting American League catcher. Imagine what would happen if wrestling fans were allowed to select cards or actually referee matches! The sport would never recover.

You made a good point in wondering what might have happened if the fans had voted Larry Hennig as the referee of the Jerry Lawler-Curt Hennig title match. If that had happened, Curt Hennig would still be AWA champion today.



Jackie Fargo breaks up Curt Hennig and Jerry Lawler. In that match (in which Lawler won the AWA title), Larry Hennig could have been the ref. That bothers reader Mark Maddox.

The wrestling world is filled with people whose entire lives have been devoted to properly promoting the sport. Let the men who *really* know the squared circle be the ones to make important decisions. Anything else is just asking for trouble—big trouble!

MARK MADDOX
Salt Lake City, UT

CONQUISTADOR CRAZY

I think The Conquistadors deserve more credit than they get. They've managed to hold their own with—and have nearly defeated—some of the top tag teams in wrestling today.

In fact, they pinned The Rockers at a recent match I attended in Denver! In the ring, The Conquistadors work harder than any other team I've seen in a long while. Out of the ring, they are very nice people as well. They even took time out of their busy schedules to sign autographs for my friend and myself at their match in Denver.

It's teams like this that keep real fans coming back for more!

MARK ROBINSON
Colorado Springs, CO

WARRIOR WORRIES

I can't believe what's happened to The Road Warriors. I never would have believed they would *ever* turn their backs on Sting. This was even worse than when Barry Windham turned against Lex Luger during that World tag team title match. In fact, this is the worst betrayal ever!

All Sting was doing was helping those painted fools defend their six-man tag team title while Dusty Rhodes was at a Special Olympics ceremony in Texas. Sting had Mike Rotundo helpless in his scorpion leglock, but it looks like the Warriors got jealous. They beat Sting horribly. As if that wasn't enough, Hawk and Animal hit Lex Luger with a cheap shot when he came to the ring to help Sting. I was so shocked, I just lowered my head in shame and despair.

I'm hoping that Sting and Luger will beat the living daylights out of The Road Warriors. I'll be rooting for them all the way, because there's no

(Continued on page 46)

THE TATTER

BAYAMON, PR: Charges against Jose Huertas Gonzales for the July 16 murder of wrestler Bruiser Brody were reduced from first-degree murder to manslaughter at a November 2 preliminary hearing.

Gonzalez is accused of stabbing Brody in the abdomen while in the dressing room of Juan Ramon Loubriel Stadium prior to a wrestling card. Brody died the following morning and Gonzalez was arrested two days later. Gonzalez is currently free on \$120,000 bail while awaiting the start of his trial. Jury selection is scheduled to begin January 3.

Bayamon District Court Judge Jose Lino Carrasquillo ruled that the pros-



JOSE GONZALES

ecution did not have enough evidence to sustain a first-degree murder charge against Gonzalez and ordered the charge reduced to voluntary homicide (manslaughter).

Raul Santiago Merendez, Gonzalez' attorney, told a reporter for the *San Juan Star* that he does not plan to ask for an adjournment and is hoping to complete the trial as quickly as possible. Merendez also said that he will object if the prosecuting attorney asks for a continuance and will argue that Gonzalez acted in self-defense.

The pre-trial hearing had been postponed three times, the final time on October 11 when the prosecutor asked for additional time to interview and contact witnesses.

—*Dave Rosenbaum*

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NEW YORK, NY: Unsubstantiated rumors have circulated that Ronnie Garvin—a former NWA World champ and the most recent holder of the AWA TV championship—will enter manager Bobby "The Brain" Heenan's stable when he arrives in the WWF in late December.

Garvin would be the fourth ex-NWA star to join Heenan over the past three months, along with Terry Taylor and former NWA World tag champs Tully Blanchard and Arn Anderson. Heenan is hoping to rebuild and expand his stable in an attempt to eventually control all the WWF's major titles.

(Continued on page 54)

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TOP WRESTLE YOUR QUESTION

Do you have a question you want answered by 10 of wrestling's top stars? Each month, *Sports Review*

Wrestling will publish a fan's "Question of the Month," which will be answered by the sport's top superstars. If you have a question you would like to see answered, send it to:

ASK THE STARS

Sports Review Wrestling
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THE "QUESTION OF THE MONTH" IS:

"Why do you choose to wear a mask or war paint?"

Submitted by:
Thomas Potamkin
Gilbert, OR



STING

"To be honest, when Rock and I left Powerteam U.S.A., we wanted to establish ourselves as a powerful new force. So we formed The Blade Runners, and we used makeup like The Road Warriors, then the sport's hottest team. Later, when I forged my own image, I used makeup to remind people of my scorpion leglock. But isn't it ironic? The men I tried to emulate are now the men I hate the most!"



ROAD WARRIOR HAWK

"Idiot! What everyone forgets is that Animal and myself were the very first ones to use makeup to instill fear into our opponents. Back in 1983, we used to dress in leather and chains, but then we came up with the idea of intimidating the wimps we wrestled just by looking like real demons from hell. So we started to use war paint. We've been imitated, but we're still the true innovators."



THE BULLET

"I wear the mask to make a statement. I'd been an established wrestling star for years, but a few years ago I decided to turn a nickname into a platform for righteousness. Now, the name and the image of The Bullet is known by rulebreakers all over the southern states. They know when I come into a territory, I'm there for one reason only—to beat the men the fans despise."



DAN DAVIS

"I'll be totally honest with you. As everyone remembers, when The Nightmares began our tag team, we wore masks instead of the star you now see painted on my face. We got rid of the masks because they seriously hampered our peripheral vision. Since I split with Ken [Wayne], I contemplated taking off the makeup for good. But the fans decided it for me. They want me to stay the way I am."

WRESTLERS ANSWER OF THE MONTH



KENDO NAGASAKI

"Only one without a sense of history would ask such an uninformed question. My makeup is a tribute to my Japanese homeland, as well as my years of strenuous training. Most of my ring techniques were taught to me by my forefathers, who were clad in a similar manner to the way I dress. The mask I wear over my face is authentic kendo equipment. I am loyal to my heritage in every way."



EXOTIC ADRIAN STREET

"Ooh, isn't it obvious, darling? I was the first to make such original fashion statements while still having the ability to beat the packings out of my dismally untalented opponents. I knew I was on to something when so many fools started copying me. But with Miss Linda assisting me with my cosmetics, I shall remain wrestling's top fashion plate for as long as I choose to do so."



SAMOAN SAMU

"A lot of people ask both myself and Fatu that question, since we have wrestled without makeup in the past. Nobody can figure out what the unique designs on our faces are supposed to signify. Stupid wrestling fans. These designs are representative of the Samoan Islands! They are meant to honor all great Samoan wrestlers, such as the immortal Afa and Sika."



THE TERMINATOR

"Haw! Just ask all the moron wrestlers down here in Florida why this makeup is so important! Ask Steve Keirn and Mike Graham how scared they get when they hear the very mention of my name! Ask Johnny Ace who the best tag team partner is! Ask the foolish fans who the wrestler is that frightens the pants off them every time I enter the arenas! I don't think I need to say anything else."



PAUL JONES

"I am answering this question for my Russian Assassins, since it's obvious to anyone but an idiot that they do not speak English. I will admit why they wear the masks—it's because they are both great Soviet athletes. The world of wrestling would drop to its knees if it was discovered who was underneath those hoods. But it is for me to know and the world to find out who they are!"



BAM BAM BIGELOW

"This isn't makeup at all, man! This is my world-famous fireball tattoo, which I put on my head back during my years as a bounty hunter. In fact, someone once said to me that I looked like a professional wrestler because of it. It was that suggestion that started me on my career. I'm proud of this image, and I'll be even prouder when I beat up Ric Flair and take his NWA World title." □

The Inquiring Reporter

No one knows wrestling better than the fans.

Because of this, we're now

giving these experts a forum for their views month, we'll ask a controversial question answer—no matter what those answers might be!

and opinions. Each and have the fans

THE QUESTION:

"Do you like the 'new' Road Warriors?"

THE ANSWERS:

Sam Perkins, Ocala, FL: "Damn right I do! It's about time Hawk and Animal got off their butts and did some good. I was getting sick of that pansy Sting telling everybody how great he is. The Warriors busted him up good. I only hope that Dusty Rhodes will get the same treatment. Let me tell you, I've lived down here all my life and I never liked Rhodes a bit. He's supposed to be some sort of legend in Florida, huh? That's bull! Wait 'til the Warriors get after him!"

Rita Natale, Hawthorne, NJ: "What can I say? The Warriors have always disgusted me, but at least I could have some respect for them when they teamed with good men like Dusty, Sting, and Lex Luger. But those days are gone, aren't they? The Warriors are back to their old, sleazy selves. Maybe some day they'll realize that what they're doing is wrong, wrong, wrong; but I doubt it. I think they're beyond salvation."

Larry Lebowitz, Shreveport, LA: "Look at it this way: Do you think



Dusty Rhodes and The Road Warriors were the NWA six-man tag team champions, but now they're on opposite sides. The Legion of Doom changed their attitude, won the NWA World tag belts, and now they *really* don't care what the fans think.

they'd be the NWA World tag team champions today if they *hadn't* turned bad? It was purely a business decision by Paul Ellering. The title translates into more money. Ellering is doing nothing more than looking out for his men's interests. Personally, I don't like the Warriors, never have, but I think Ellering fulfilled his role as manager with flying colors."

Dawn Townsend, Denver: "I don't like the new Warriors, I *love* them! It's so exciting the way they dominate their opponents now. They're not wishy-washy anymore. They stopped letting

their so-called friends boss them around. They proved they don't owe anybody a thing. They're a great team again. I can't wait to see them in person at the arena. I'll be there with my 'Go, Warriors' sign, rooting them on to victory!"

Roger Bolton, Lincoln, NE: "I first saw the Warriors in 1983, right after they'd won the old National tag team belts. They were quite a frightening pair. I knew right then that they were destined for greatness. My sister was so scared that she started crying, but I

(Continued on page 52)



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SCRAPBOOK

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 1969

DORY FUNK JR. accomplished a goal that his father, Dory Sr., was never able to when he defeated Gene Kiniski to win the NWA World championship on February 11 at the Fort Hesterly Armory in Tampa, Florida. Kiniski submitted to Funk's spinning toe-hold, ending his three-year, one-month title reign. Funk had the trunks he wore in the title-winning bout dipped in bronze and mounted on a purple velvet backdrop ... The Sheik posted a standing guarantee of \$30,000 in cash for Funk if Dory Jr. would give him a title shot in Detroit ... WWF

Calhoun began wrestling together in tag team matches. Rivera said that they hoped to challenge for the WWWF tag team title, and the announcement effectively squashed rumors that Haystacks was thinking of retiring ... Russian wrestler Chris Markoff was a big hit in Los Angeles rings ... Professional wrestling lost two of its stars, Jim Hady and Frank Scarpa, both victims of heart attacks.

NWA RATINGS: 1—Dory Funk Jr.; 2—Gene Kiniski; 3—Eddie Graham; 4—Fritz Von Erich; 5—The Sheik; 6—Johnny Valentine; 7—Ernie Ladd; 8—Bob Ellis; 9—Bob Geigel; 10—Pat O'Connor.

AWA RATINGS: 1—Verne Gagne; 2—Bruiser; 3—Crusher; 4—Harley Race; 5—Blackjack Lanza; 6—Bill Watts; 7—Mighty

8—Bull Ramos; 9—Spiros Arion; 10—Victor Rivera.

TAG TEAMS: 1—Bruiser and Crusher; 2—Pepper Gomez and Pedro Morales; 3—Kenji Shibuya and Haru Sasaki; 4—George Becker and Johnny Weaver; 5—The Medics; 6—Ole and Gene Anderson; 7—The Assassins; 8—Stan and Paul Vachon; 9—George and Sandy Scott; 10—Miguel Perez and Pete Sanchez.

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 1974

THE CRAZED MOONDOG Lonnie Mayne, who chewed lightbulbs and ate goldfish during interviews, defeated Pat Patterson to win the United States heavyweight championship. Patterson (Continued on page 56)



Gene Kiniski battles Dory Funk Jr. in an NWA World title match. In 1969, Funk, whose father Dory Sr. was a world-famous wrestler, won that title from Kiniski.

champion Bruno Sammartino and number-one contender Killer Kowalski refused to obey referee Danny Bartfield's instructions and were disqualified in the main event at Madison Square Garden ... Victor Rivera and Haystacks

Igor; 8—Mad Dog Vachon; 9—Reg Parks; 10—Doug Gilbert.

WWF RATINGS: 1—Bruno Sammartino; 2—Killer Kowalski; 3—Gorilla Monsoon; 4—Toru Tanaka; 5—Ed Carpentier; 6—George Steele; 7—Miguel Perez;

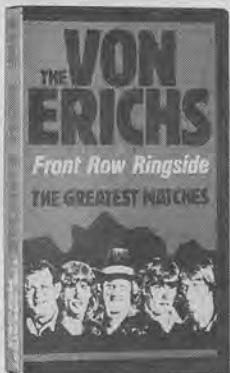


Moondog Mayne, not the most stable character, liked to swallow goldfish. Mayne won the U.S. title from Pat Patterson in 1974.



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- The entire May 6, 1984, bout in which Kerry Von Erich captured the NWA World title from Ric Flair at Texas Stadium in front of 43,518 fans.
- Highlights of Mike Von Erich's November 24, 1983, debut match against Gen. Skandor Akbar, and a battle against John Tatum.
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WRESTLER OF THE MONTH

THE ROAD WARRIORS

JIM CORNETTE DOESN'T usually make tactical errors. This time, however, Cornette did a *very* foolish thing.

A few days before his Midnight Express defended the NWA World tag team title against The Road Warriors on October 29 at New Orleans' Municipal Auditorium, Cornette, the Express' manager, decided to let off a little steam.

The acerbic manager was angered over the actions of Animal, Hawk, and manager Paul Ellering during the Express' disqualification victory over the Warriors on October 16 in Baltimore. Never known as the shy, retiring type, Cornette directed a scathing verbal attack at Ellering and his team.

"We're never gonna let those Warriors win our belts," said Cornette in his usual rapid-fire delivery. "Those rejects from a Vincent Price movie are asking for trouble. They're gonna have to kill all three of us to win this title. They'll *never* take the belts away from Bobby and Stan."

Wrong, Jim. Only three weeks after their shocking brutalization of Sting on October 7 in Richmond, Virginia, the Warriors were primed for this rematch with Stan Lane and Bobby Eaton. They were also primed for destruction.

The Warriors demolished the Express to capture the NWA World tag team title on this historic night. Suddenly, Hawk and Animal are despised again. They are feared again. Most important, they are champions again. And that's why they captured "Wrestler of the Month" honors for this issue.

This month's selection was not an easy one for many of the editors of *Sports Review Wrestling*. Assistant Editor Eddie Ellner made a case for the Warriors that few staff members could argue with.

"This section in the magazine is *supposed* to be devoted to the person who made the greatest impact on the sport for that month, right?" asked Ellner. "Well, who has *ever* had a better month than the Warriors did in October? First they brutalized Sting, which is something that's never happened to him before. Then they won the World title from the woefully overmatched Midnights. How could a team possibly have a better month than that?"

Ellner made a strong case, but several of our editors were troubled by the violent, brutal way that Hawk, Animal, and Ellering achieved their success. "They turned against Dusty Rhodes and Sting, and they turned against the fans," reasoned Assistant Editor Gersh Kuntzman. "I can't condone this."

Perhaps not, but Ellner's argument was more than enough to convince Managing Editor Craig Peters, who held the deciding vote. "Gersh wasn't a wrestling fan

when the Warriors were in their prime," he said. "He never saw how awesome these guys were when they openly displayed their mean streak. The proof is in what's happened this month; as soon as they changed their ways, they were champions again."

And *how* they changed their ways! The Warriors agreed to team with Sting against The Varsity Club in a defense of their NWA six-man title. Their regular partner, Dusty Rhodes, was out of the area and couldn't make it to the arena in time for the bout. Incensed, Hawk and Animal responded to Rhodes' absence by blindsiding Sting and delivering two vicious clotheslines to the unsuspecting young superstar. Traction and a neck brace followed for Sting.

The Legion of Doom was just getting started, however. In Baltimore, Hawk and Animal came extremely close to taking the title from Lane and Eaton. But close won't cut it—not where Hawk and Animal are concerned.

"Never mention 'killing' around Hawk and Animal," sneered Ellering after learning of Cornette's comments. "That's just asking for serious trouble. The way we feel right now, we're willing to accept little Jimmy's comments at face value. He's gonna be sorry he ever opened his big mouth. In fact, that twerp will be sorry he ever got into the business!"

A better prediction has never been made. Lane and Eaton entered the ring first, anxious to avenge the Baltimore bashing. Ellering decided to counter their strategy by attacking *Cornette* outside the ring, which gave Hawk the opening he needed to grab Eaton and throw him out of the ring. Animal pounded Eaton's head into the steel ringpost twice, opening a huge gash.

Eaton, losing a huge quantity of blood, clearly was in no shape to wrestle. Cornette tried to lead Eaton back to the dressing room, but Bobby saw Lane valiantly trying to wrestle both Animal and Hawk on his own. He shrugged off Cornette and tagged Lane, who was being beaten badly in his team's corner.

Another bad move. Thirty seconds and one Animal clothesline later, Eaton was pinned. The Warriors are now the only team ever to hold both the NWA and AWA World tag team title. And they have *never* been as blood-thirsty as they are now.

"We're not finished yet," warns Hawk. "We're sick of all the talk about us not being what we used to be. After we've crippled Rhodes, Sting, and Luger, they won't say those things anymore. Those dweebs will say we're better, meaner, and tougher than we *ever* were."

They're *already* saying that. And that's why The Road Warriors were the overwhelming choice as our "Wrestlers of the Month." □

FEBRUARY 1989



The Road Warriors stormed to the NWA World tag title.

POINT/COUNTERPOINT

POINT

RIC FLAIR WILL KEEP HIS NWA WORLD TITLE THROUGHOUT 1989



NWA World champion Ric Flair has worn the belt for most of the past seven years and will continue to hold it through 1989, writes Stu Saks, who notes that several top wrestlers were unable to dethrone the champ last year.

By Stu Saks

FOR THE PAST several years, Ric Flair has been one of the most difficult wrestlers to figure out. Most serious fans realize he's been blessed with some of the greatest skills ever unleashed in a professional wrestling ring. It makes me want to call him the greatest competitor of modern times.

On the other hand, he's utilized every trick at his disposal in order to win his matches—especially outside interference on the part of J.J. Dillon. It makes me want to call for fines and a suspension.

The one constant about Flair, though, is that he's a winner—the *ultimate* winner. He's the NWA World champion, currently enjoying his fifth title reign. There's no reason to expect that to change in 1989.

In fact, Flair had a better 1988 than just about anybody expected him to have. On September 25, 1987, Flair lost his title to Ronnie Garvin, who then was a respected scientific wrestler. It was a stunning upset. Although Flair regained the title two months later at Starrcade '87, many believed that the loss to Garvin was a sign of more defeats to come.

That didn't happen. Flair managed to keep his title from a host of contenders during 1988, most notably Sting and Lex Luger. While these talented competitors came within inches of capturing the belt, no one managed to pin Flair's shoulders to the mat for a three-count. And if men of this caliber cannot beat Flair, who can?

There are some interesting matchups on the horizon. Luger is still attempting to wrest the belt from Flair; and Bam Bam Bigelow is now in the NWA, and it's certain that this 390-pound giant will give Flair plenty of anxious moments.

But when the beginning of 1990 rolls around, the smiling faces of Flair and J.J. Dillon will no doubt still be seen by millions of NWA fans from the same place they always have:

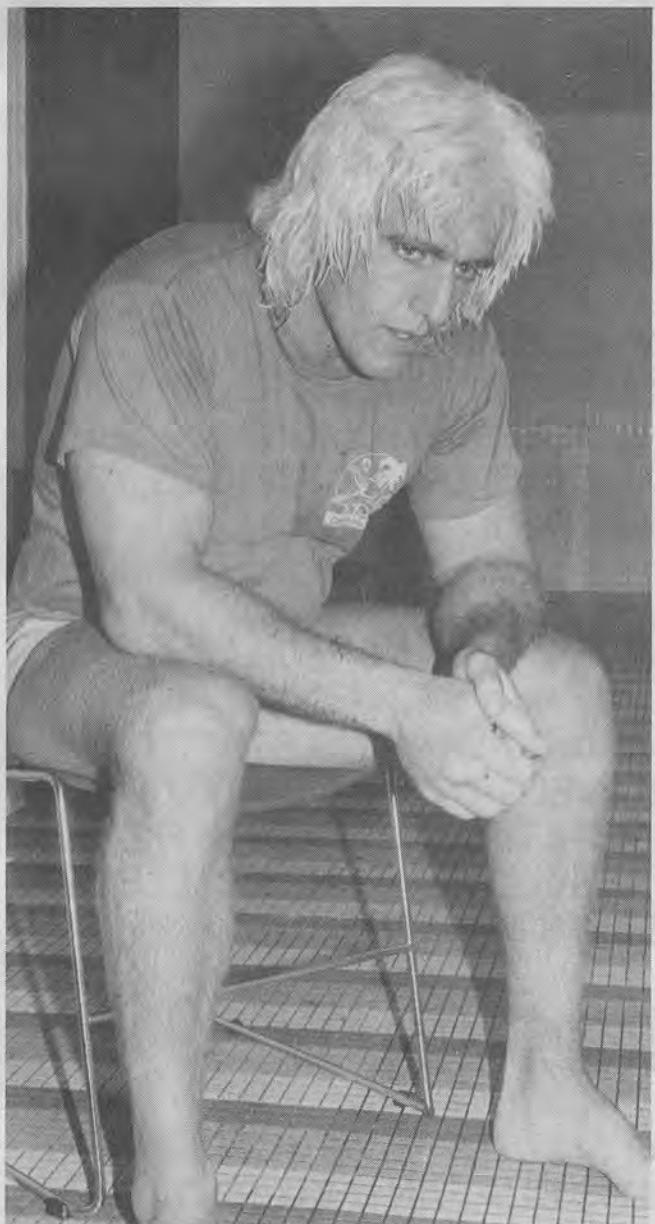
The winner's circle. That's because Ric Flair will still be NWA champion.

Stu Saks is editor-in-chief of *Sports Review Wrestling*.

There are two sides to every story, and nowhere is that more true than in professional wrestling. Each month, two of the world's most respected mat journalists will debate an important issue concerning the sport, facing off for an exchange of ideas, leaving the final decision up to you!

COUNTERPOINT

RIC FLAIR WILL LOSE HIS NWA WORLD TITLE IN 1989



A host of challengers—including Sting, Lex Luger, Dusty Rhodes, Bam Bam Bigelow, and Ron Simmons—will make 1989 a bad year for Ric Flair, writes Andy Rodriguez. It's not a question of *if*, but rather *when* he'll lose the belt.

By Andy Rodriguez

RIIGHT OFF THE top of my head, I can think of five good reasons why Ric Flair will lose his NWA championship during the coming year:

Sting. Lex Luger. Dusty Rhodes. Bam Bam Bigelow. Ron Simmons.

I can't make my point any clearer than that. Flair would have to be superhuman to be able to hold on to his NWA title against all five of these top wrestlers. *Nobody* is able to keep that prized belt from these hungry lions—not even a supremely talented competitor like Flair.

Flair spent most of 1988 barely squeaking by decision after decision, sometimes through the most nefarious of means. When he got into trouble, he could always rely on J.J. Dillon, or one of his Four Horsemen compatriots, to bail him out of serious pinning or submission situations.

That will probably continue for some time to come, but Flair's got two less Horsemen to depend on. With Arn Anderson and Tully Blanchard in the WWF, that leaves only Dillon and Barry Windham to save Flair. They might not be enough.

Plus, Flair made a *lot* of enemies in 1988. Luger started the year as one of the Horsemen, but by the time spring had turned to summer, he was at war with the champion. When Luger lost that July 10 Baltimore match because of a bogus official's decision, he funneled his disappointment into a definite goal—beating Flair and proving he was the better man. Considering the way Luger has torn at Flair in recent matches, he seems like a best bet to win his first NWA World title next year.

Then there's Sting, who wrestled Flair to a thrilling 45-minute draw in March; Bigelow, who's anxious to prove his worth in the NWA; Rhodes, who would love to add a fourth NWA title to his growing list of accomplishments; and Simmons, a proud, young athlete who is gaining more status every day.

All of these men will be gunning for Flair in 1989. It's not a question of whether or not Flair will lose his title in the coming year. It's just a question of *when*.

Andy Rodriguez is assistant editor of *Sports Review Wrestling*.

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WRESTLING'S TOP CHAMPIONS:

WHAT '89 HAS INSTORE FOR THEM

Can Ric Flair maintain his hold on the NWA World title? Is a Randy Savage-Hulk Hogan feud on the horizon? Can Jerry Lawler last another year as AWA World champion? These questions, and others, are answered in this *Sports Review Wrestling* special analysis. It's essential reading for all fans!

If 1989 IS anything like 1988, the coming year doesn't figure to be a good one for Jerry Lawler, Randy Savage, The Road Warriors, Bad Company, Demolition, The Ultimate Warrior, Kerry Von Erich, and Barry Windham.

Sure, all of these men won major championships over the past 12 months, but prosperity usually doesn't last very long in pro wrestling. Though all of these men won major championships in 1988, only one man—NWA World champion Ric Flair—ended the year with the same belt he started with.

So if that trend continues, *none* of them will still be champion when the new decade rolls around.

But that doesn't rule out the possibility that any—or even all—of these men will survive 1989 with their belts intact. In fact, the coming year promises many challenges for these champions, challenges that most of them have the ability to meet. Rest assured, however, that there will be no shortage of men who are ready,

willing, and quite able to make *all* of them ex-champions.

And that's what makes professional wrestling the most exciting sport in the world. There is no off-season. There's never time for a breather. Wrestling's champions don't defend their titles once or twice a year, like boxing's champions. The sport offers a new test every day, the possibility of injury exists with every second spent in the ring, and a demanding travel schedule that makes pro wrestling the world's most grueling sport.

Which champions have the ability to survive 1989? Who will their top challengers be? Which champions won't survive—and who will take their belts away? These are the questions the editors of *Sports Review Wrestling* hope to answer in this special New Year's section.

It's a look ahead to 1989, when anything can—and will—happen!

WORLD WRESTLING



Randy Savage runs Andre the Giant into the turnbuckle (above) and backflips Ted DiBiase to the canvas (below). Andre and DiBiase figure to remain top contenders well into 1989.



The Ultimate Warrior displays his awesome strength by holding up Barry Horowitz for several seconds before slamming him. Men like Bad News Brown and Dino Bravo would love a shot at the newly crowned Intercontinental champion.

HE'S ONLY EIGHT months into his WWF World title reign, but Randy Savage has already established the dominance Hulk Hogan commanded during his four-years-plus as champion. The "Macho Man" has mowed down top challengers Ted DiBiase, Andre the Giant, King Haku, and Bad News Brown, prompting a question we once asked about Hogan.

Can anybody beat him?

And, surprisingly, the answer is yes. Remember, we still don't know if any wrestler can defeat the "Hulkster." He lost the World title to Andre the Giant on a very controversial decision, and then was bounced out of the WrestleMania IV title tournament when he and DiBiase battled to a double-disqualification.

Hulk Hogan hasn't been cleanly pinned in over five years. Randy Savage, on the other hand, has been pinned several times, most prominently by Hogan.

Savage is not an unbeatable champion, but thus far it appears only one man can pin him. Thus, the chal-

lenge for Savage in 1989 will be avoiding a match against Hogan. But we don't think that's going to happen. Elizabeth is the key player.

Let's not forget that Elizabeth is the only thing Savage values more than the WWF World title. It has been clear for many years that Savage is in love with his beautiful manager and is insanely jealous of any other would-be courtiers of her affection. Hogan probably isn't trying to romance Elizabeth, but that's not how Savage sees the situation.

There are two ways the Hogan-Savage feud can be renewed in 1989:

- Savage, overcome by jealousy, will attack Hogan.
- Hogan, disgusted by his inability to get a title shot at a fellow fan favorite and tired of being ex-champion, allows his vicious side to resurface and goes after Savage.

Either scenario would set up a monumental encounter at WrestleMania V, a match that would be the

FEDERATION



Hercules Hernandez is cornered by The Ultimate Warrior during WrestleMania IV. The Warrior's 1989 WrestleMania opponent may come from a group of contenders including Ted DiBiase, Curt Hennig, Big Bossman, and King Haku.



Famous for his cruelty, Smash works over Bret Hart (above); Demolition double-teams Dynamite Kid (below). Several teams will try to end Demolition's title reign.



highlight of the coming year.

Demolition, the team least likely to win the WWF World tag belts when 1988 began, is probably the team most likely to be champions at the start of 1989. A recent back injury suffered by Warlord has sidelined The Powers of Pain. When the Powers do return, will they be able to regain their momentum? Rumors have also spread that The British Bulldogs are ready to leave the WWF.

The Rougeaus are an outstanding scientific duo that can only be helped by the addition of manager Jimmy Hart. But it will take more than scientific skills to beat Demolition. Do the Rougeaus have the necessary killer instinct?

Former NWA World champions Tully Blanchard and Arn Anderson are now on the WWF scene and figure to make the coming year extremely interesting. The Brain Busters are managed by Bobby Heenan, and it wouldn't be a surprise to see Heenan start a war with

manager Mr. Fuji. A Demolition vs. Tully and Arn feud would be like the old Tully and Arn vs. Road Warriors feud in the NWA. It would also be a major box-office smash.

The Ultimate Warrior will have to do more than hold off The Honky Tonk Man if he hopes to retain his Intercontinental title. The coming year figures to present several new challenges for this determined muscleman. And his one-dimensional approach to the sport might not be enough to handle a multidimensional wrestler such as DiBiase, who might choose to go after the I-C belt now that he has failed to win—or buy!—the World title.

Don't forget Big Bossman, Curt Hennig, and Terry Taylor, three WWF newcomers with considerable experience as champions. Each man figures to make a run at a title during the coming year.

A year that should have more than its share of title changes in the WWF.

NATIONAL WRESTLING



U.S. champion Barry Windham claws Dusty Rhodes (above) and engages in a slugfest with Sting (below). It was a very good year for the newest member of the Horsemen.



NWA World champion Ric Flair whips Sting during a savage steel cage encounter. Sting, Lex Luger, and Rick Steiner gave Flair many anxious moments in 1989.

THE NWA IS the one federation where there's a good chance the three major champions will last the entire year.

Since 1981, Ric Flair has had a virtual stranglehold on the NWA World title. Four times he has successfully defended the belt through an entire calendar year; that statistic includes his current reign, which started last November and was still going strong at press time.

The Road Warriors won their first NWA World title on October 29 and, judging by their recent actions and renewed killer instinct, it's going to be almost impossible to dethrone them. Back in August 1984, the Warriors won the AWA World title and held it for over a year. Animal and Hawk might *still* be AWA champions if not for a controversial decision that robbed them of the belts and forced them to leave the area.

As for U.S. champ Barry Windham, it's fair to say that he's probably the most well-rounded champion in

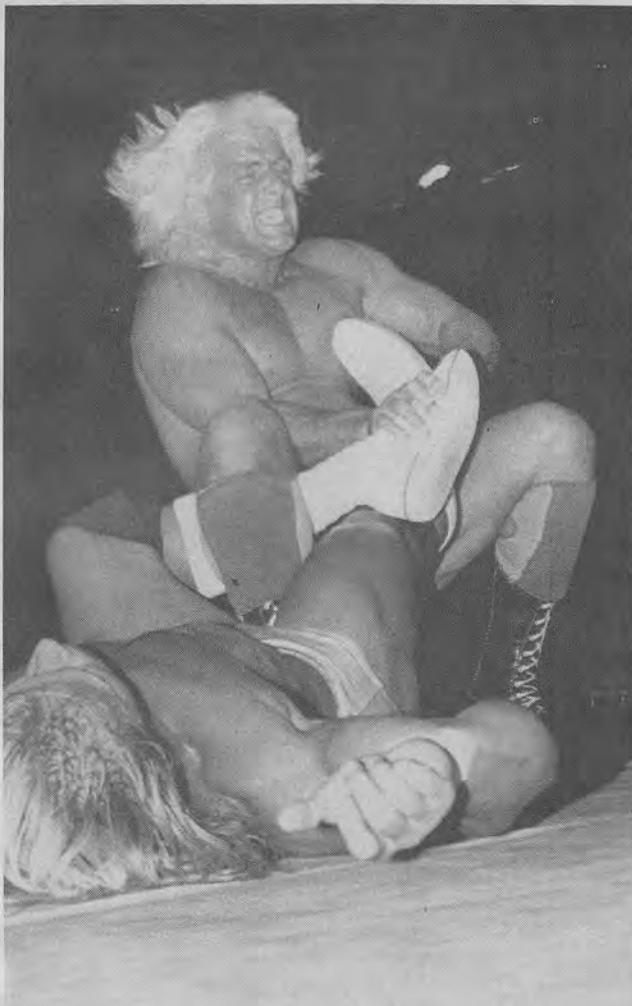
the sport. Who else can combine youth, scientific skill, stamina, and intensity like Windham does? And when things go wrong, there's always manager J.J. Dillon at ringside, shoe in hand.

Yes, it could be a tough year for the NWA's top challengers.

It's interesting to note, however, that Flair has never defended his belt through consecutive calendar years. The closest he ever came was during his third reign, when he went through 1985 and finally lost the belt on July 26, 1986. Very simply, defending the NWA World title is a grueling exercise. It won't be any different in 1989.

If Flair is going to survive 1989, he'll have to hold off challenges from Lex Luger, Sting, Bam Bam Bigelow, and possibly former archrival Rick Steamboat. [For two views on the Flair title situation in 1989, see "Point/Counterpoint" on page 18.] Although Steamboat

ALLIANCE



Flair applies the figure-four leglock on Lex Luger. Many experts are predicting that the "Total Package" will finally defeat Flair for the NWA title in 1989, which is something he failed to do in 1988 as the result of several disputed decisions.

has proven in the past that he can match Flair one-on-one, Luger and Sting pose the stiffest challenges. They both have youth, skill, and the fans on their side.

Flair's title defense schedule, usually the most intense in the sport, was incredibly light in 1988. He defended the belt only once during the Great American Bash, narrowly escaping a loss to Luger. Sting and Luger, however, won't let Flair get by so easily in 1989. This will be the year we find out whether the "Nature Boy" still has what it takes to be champion.

That question doesn't have to be asked about The Road Warriors, however, who figure to make the World tag belts their personal property over the coming 365 days. With both Midnight Express teams tied up in a feud, and Luger and Sting making Flair's title their main goal, the Warriors should have an easy time of it in 1989.

Should, however, is the key word. "We've never



Hawk slams into Bobby Eaton (above) while Animal slams Stan Lane (below). The Road Warriors defeated The Midnight Express for the NWA World tag team title on October 29.



asked for an easy way out, and you'd better believe Hawk and Animal want to defend those belts," manager Paul Ellering said. "'Kick butt in '89,' that's gonna be our motto. We're ready to prove to the world that The Legion of Doom is the greatest tag team ever."

With this in mind, don't be surprised to see the Warriors make several trips to Japan to defend their belts. The Warriors have what they've always wanted, and they plan to do something with it.

It's entirely possible that Barry Windham is the best wrestler in the NWA. With that in mind, Windham just might get bored with the U.S. belt, fed up with Dillon's interference, and leave the Horsemen. Windham has privately told friends that he intensely desires the NWA World title; if so, not even his current (tenuous) friendship with Flair will stop him.

This is wrestling and, in reality, friendships don't matter. It's titles that count.

AMERICAN WRESTLING WORLD CLASS, AND



The AWA was well-represented in 1988 by World champion Jerry Lawler (above) and tag champions Paul Diamond and Pat Tanaka (below), all of whom faced a wealth of top contenders.



World Class champion Kerry Von Erich pins Lawler (above). Texas champ Iceman Parsons whips Brickhouse Brown (below). Both Von Erich and Parsons had outstanding years in Texas.



JERRY LAWLER IS still alive. He won the AWA World title in 1988, but his most remarkable achievement was simply surviving the year.

"I'd have to say that, without a doubt, 1988 was both my most satisfying and most exhausting year," Lawler said recently. "It seems like every night I was in a different town facing a different opponent and a new challenge. But you know, I wouldn't have given it up for anything. Being champion is what this sport is all about. It's why I've stayed around so long."

But can he make it through the coming year? Even if Lawler survives his title unification match against World Class champ Kerry Von Erich on December 13, there's considerable question as to whether Lawler will be able to take another year of grueling title defenses. Is Lawler burned out? We'll have ample opportunity to find out in 1989.

Do not—repeat, *do not!*—expect the Lawler-Von Erich war, now hotter than ever, to end in the foreseeable

able future.

One thing the Kerry-Jerry feud has done, however, is keep other challengers from going after the AWA and World Class belts. WCCW Texas champ Iceman Parsons, for example, has demanded a shot at the World Class heavyweight title, which he held for over a month in early 1988. And many people suspect that Ronnie Garvin left the AWA for the WWF after realizing that he'd have a hard time getting a shot at the World title.

On the other hand, Pat Tanaka and Paul Diamond, a.k.a. Bad Company, are waiting for a team to challenge them for the AWA World tag team belts. Stagnation might prove to be their downfall. When a team finally comes along to wrestle Tanaka and Diamond, the champs may be so rusty from lack of activity they'll be unable to mount a defense.

Now that World Class officials have decided to discontinue the Texas tag title, former champs The Samoan Swat Team will find it harder than ever to hold on to

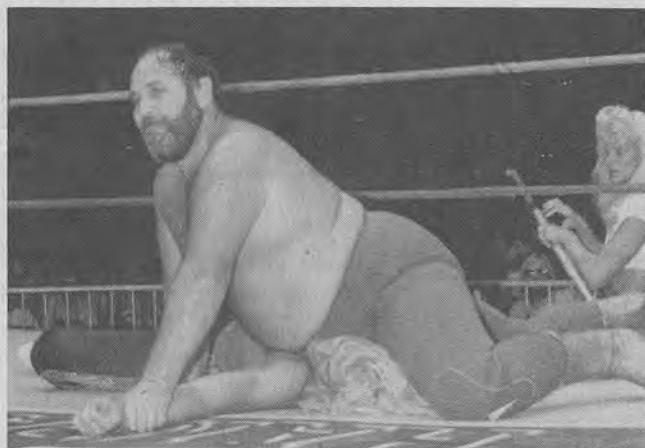
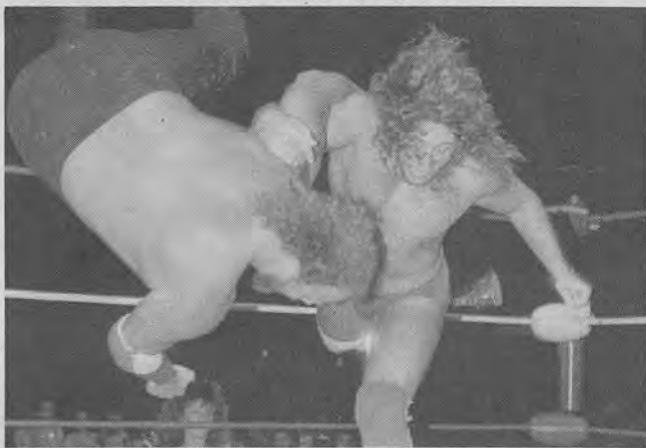
ASSOCIATION, OTHERS



World Class tag champs Samu and Fatu, the Samoan Swat Team, hammer away at Kerry Von Erich (above). CWF champion Tom Prichard biel-throws Tony Anthony (below).



British Commonwealth champion Johnny Smith whips Jason the Terrible (above). CWA king Phil Hickerson pins Jeff Jarrett in another successful title defense (below).



their WCCW tag belts. Michael Hayes and Steve Cox are the perfect combination of youth and experience, and will continue to challenge the Samoans.

The man most capable of unseating Stampede North American champion Makhan Singh is missing in action. Owen Hart, who lost the belt to Makhan on May 6, 1988, has yet to return to the Stampede area.

Many people were surprised that Singh wasn't stripped of the title after getting suspended for 45 days this fall, and it's even more surprising that this limited brawler has been able to retain the belt so long. Fortunately for Singh, British Commonwealth champ Johnny Smith is on his side, while Bruce Hart and Chris Benoit are more concerned with beating Smith.

Singh, then, should spend most of 1989 praying that Owen Hart doesn't return. Meanwhile, he's spending a good amount of time avoiding former ally Steve DiSalvo, the man most likely to take Singh's title.

CWA champ Phil Hickerson keeps on eating and

keeps on winning. Jeff Jarrett, however, recently won the World Class junior heavyweight title and is improving with every match; Hickerson will most likely have to fend off a challenge from young Jarrett. In fact, Hickerson will also have to deal with Lawler if the King loses his AWA World title. Tommy Rich is also on the scene and hoping to regain past glories; don't forget, "Wildfire" is a former NWA World champion.

Everybody cheered when Tom Prichard won the Continental title, but Tony Anthony is determined to take it from him. The "Dirty White Boy," accompanied by his "Dirty White Girl" Lady Mystic, is a formidable foe who will stop at nothing to get what he wants. If Anthony does win the title, Prichard and Brad Armstrong—a talented scientific star—will be right there to knock him off his lofty perch.

It's been said that it's tougher to defend a title than to win one. The coming year will test that adage once again. □

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Special Feature

YOUR WRESTLING CALENDAR AND DATEBOOK FOR 1989

IT'S 9 A.M. Saturday morning and you've just rolled out of bed and headed downstairs to the den. You're ready to curl up on the couch and watch your favorite wrestling program. But as you switch on the TV and tune in the proper channel, you're greeted by—horror of horrors!—*Davey and Goliath* reruns.

Suddenly, you realize: it's not Saturday morning at all!

It's Sunday!

And while Goliath grumbles, "I don't know, Daaa-vey!" you say to yourself, "If only I had a wrestling calendar and datebook, I wouldn't be in this jam right now!"

Worry no longer, because here is the one item no wrestling fan can do without: your special bonus wrestling calendar and datebook for 1989!

This month-by-month calendar is specially designed to provide you with all the space you'll need to remember important birthdays, anniversaries, special occasions, and appointments. Keep track of important title changes as they occur, or log the on-sale dates of *Sports Review Wrestling* and our sister publications months ahead of time—so you never miss an important issue!

Our special bonus this year makes the 1989 calendar and datebook one you'll want to preserve forever: birthdays of your favorite (and, in some cases, your not-so-favorite) wrestlers are marked on the calendar by a photo of that particular wrestler. Plus, each page spotlights an important event in wrestling history.

So carefully unbend the staples of this magazine, remove the pages, and keep your 1989 calendar and datebook in a handy place on your desk, in your briefcase, or with your schoolbooks. It's certain to be a useful and invaluable reference source the whole year round!

JANUARY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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15	16	17	18		20	21
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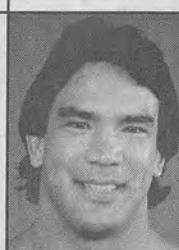
January 1: Candi Devine
 January 7: Nick Kiniski
 January 7: Chavo Guerrero
 January 10: Willie B. Hert
 January 11: Strong Kobayashi
 January 12: B. Brian Blair
 January 14: Hacksaw Duggan
 January 19: Ted DiBiase
 January 19: Pat Patterson



January 22: Tully Blanchard
 January 23: Giant Baba
 January 23: Dominic DeNucci
 January 23: Lelani Kai
 January 24: Akira Maeda
 January 24: Masanobu Fuchi
 January 26: Road Warrior Animal
 January 28: Jimmy Jack Funk
 January 29: Samu

January 24, 1988: Dusty Rhodes wins his third NWA Bunkhouse Stampede championship in Uniondale, New York

FEBRUARY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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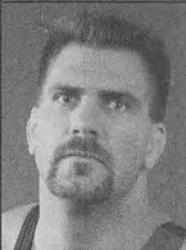
February 1: Dennis Condrey
 February 3: Kerry Von Erich
 February 4: Ed Gantner
 February 7: Tiger Chung Lee
 February 8: Fred Blassie
 February 10: Chris Adams
 February 12: Akeem
 February 19: Dory Funk Jr.



February 19: John Studd
 February 20: Antonio Inoki
 February 20: Terry Gibbs
 February 20: Marty Jannetty
 February 20: Buddy Rogers
 February 25: Ric Flair
 February 28: Rick Steamboat
 February 28: The Missing Link

February 20, 1978: Bob Backlund defeats Superstar Graham for the WWF World title in New York's Madison Square Garden

MARCH

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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March 3: Ben Bassarab
 March 4: Danny Davis
 March 6: Killer Khan
 March 9: Nikita Koloff
 March 7: Chick Donovan
 March 15: The Iron Sheik
 March 18: Rick Martel



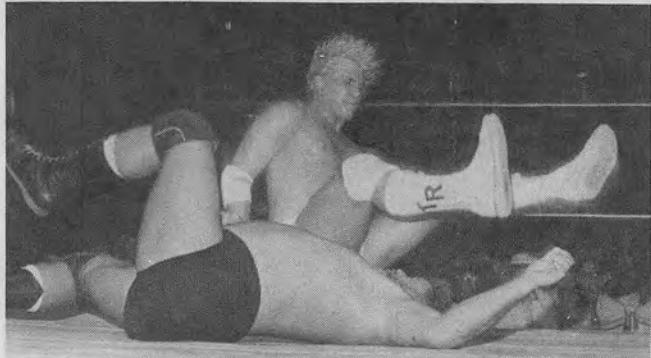
March 19: Scott Casey
 March 20: Sting
 March 21: Buck Zumhofe
 March 25: Jumbo Tsuruta
 March 28: Curt Hennig
 March 29: Michael Hayes
 March 30: S.D. Jones

March 27, 1988: Randy Savage defeats Ted DiBiase in a tournament final to win the WWF World title in Atlantic City, New Jersey

APRIL

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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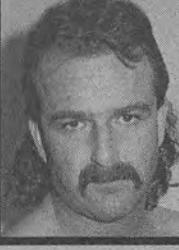
April 5: Sika
April 17: Roddy Piper
April 19: Ox Baker
April 21: Brutus Beefcake



April 23: Tony Atlas
April 26: Jerry Blackwell
April 27: Terry Gordy
April 28: Siva Afi

April 21, 1981: Tommy Rich defeats Harley Race for the NWA World title in Augusta, Georgia

MAY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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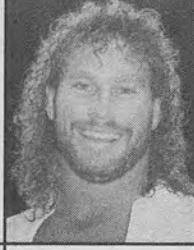
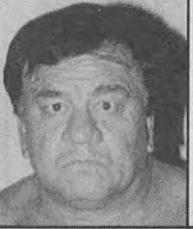
May 2: Detroit Demolition
May 4: Mr. Fuji
May 5: Princess Victoria
May 5: Don Kernodle
May 10: Tito Santana
May 14: Tommy Rogers
May 15: Kevin Von Erich



May 16: Johnny Rodz
May 18: Jimmy Snuka
May 18: Matt Brock
May 19: Dick Slater
May 19: Andre the Giant
May 28: Kamala
May 30: Jake Roberts

May 29, 1984: The NWA presents the "Night of the Champions" supercard in East Rutherford, New Jersey

JUNE

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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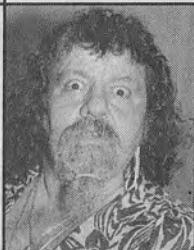
June 2: Lex Luger
 June 4: Gorilla Monsoon
 June 6: Moondog Spot
 June 14: Buzz Sawyer
 June 15: Brad Armstrong



June 11, 1988: Kevin Von Erich is "pinned" by young Jessica McClure at a charity card in Lancaster, Texas

June 18: Salvatore Bellomo
 June 19: Wahoo McDaniel
 June 21: Mark Youngblood
 June 24: Paul Jones
 June 30: Terry Funk

JULY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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	3		5	6	7	8
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23	24	25	26	27	28	
30	31					

July 1: Tom Magee
 July 2: Bret Hart
 July 3: Steve O
 July 4: Barry Windham
 July 10: Billy Jack Haynes
 July 11: Butch Reed
 July 15: Jesse Ventura
 July 18: Carlos Colon
 July 19: Robert Gibson



July 11, 1987: Steve Williams defeats Big Bubba Rogers to win the UWF title in Oklahoma City

July 21: Mark Youngblood
 July 22: Shawn Michaels
 July 22: Fabulous Moolah
 July 22: Shaun Simpson
 July 23: Al Perez
 July 26: Tommy Rich
 July 27: Manny Fernandez
 July 27: Greg Gagne
 July 29: Capt. Lou Albano

AUGUST

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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13		15	16	17	18	19
20	21		23	24	25	26
	28	29	30	31		

August 1: Jimmy Golden
 August 5: Stan Lane
 August 10: Brett Sawyer
 August 11: Hulk Hogan
 August 12: Terry Taylor
 August 13: Jim Brunzell
 August 14: Eddie Gilbert
 August 14: Bob Backlund
 August 14: Bobby Eaton



August 17: Buddy Landell
 August 18: Tom Prichard
 August 19: Tim Horner
 August 22: Paul Ellering
 August 22: Kevin Sullivan
 August 24: Vince McMahon
 August 24: Rocky Johnson
 August 25: Ivan Koloff
 August 27: Sgt. Slaughter

August 29, 1988: The Ultimate Warrior defeats The Honky Tonk Man in 31 seconds for the Intercontinental title in New York City

SEPTEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
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	11		13	14	15	16
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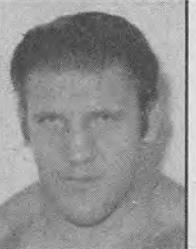
September 1: Tama
 September 2: Tracy Smothers
 September 6: Wendi Richter
 September 8: Eddie Ellner
 September 10: Superstar Graham
 September 10: Steve Keirn
 September 10: Don Muraco
 September 12: Road Warrior Hawk
 September 15: Steve Regal



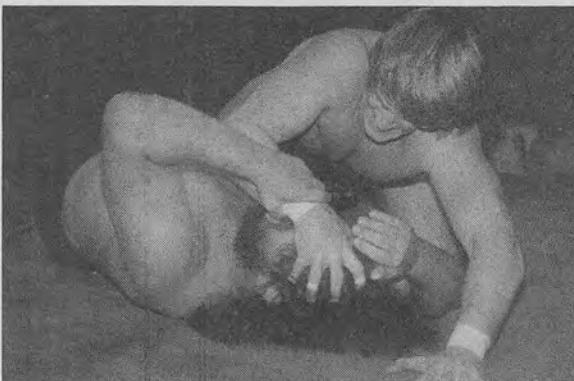
September 17: Jim Cornette
 September 19: Terminator Rigs
 September 20: Arn Anderson
 September 20: Mike Graham
 September 20: Greg Valentine
 September 21: Rick Morton
 September 25: Jimmy Garvin
 September 26: Kendo Nagasaki
 September 29: David Sammartino

September 29, 1985: Steve Regal & Jim Cornette shock The Road Warriors for the AWA World tag team title in St. Paul, Minnesota

OCTOBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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	23	24	25		27	28
29	30	31				

October 1: Hector Guerrero
 October 3: Bob Armstrong
 October 4: Bobby Fulton
 October 6: Demolition Smash
 October 6: Bruno Sammartino
 October 11: Dusty Rhodes
 October 11: Sam Houston
 October 18: Nord the Barbarian



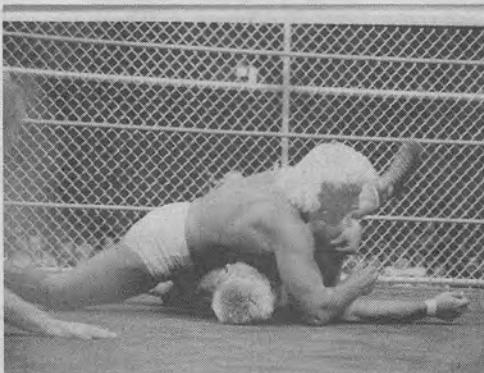
October 20: Scott Hall
 October 22: Pedro Morales
 October 22: Bad News Brown
 October 22: Bill Apter
 October 26: Austin Idol
 October 28: Mike Sharpe
 October 29: Paul Orndorff

October 17, 1987: Kevin Von Erich pins Black Bart for the World Class title in Dallas

NOVEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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12	13	14 		16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	27 	28		30		

November 1: Bobby Heenan
November 2: Mongolian Stomper
November 2: Abdullah the Butcher
November 6: Ken Patera
November 10: Bob Orton
November 15: Randy Savage



November 25: Johnny Valiant
November 26: Blackjack Mulligan
November 27: Buddy Rose
November 27: Davey Boy Smith
November 29: Jerry Lawler
November 29: Ernie Ladd

November 26, 1987: Ric Flair regains the NWA World title from Ron Garvin at Starrcade in Chicago

DECEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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3	4		6	7	8	9
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24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

December 3: Steve Simpson
 December 3: Riki Choshu
 December 5: Kelly Kiniski
 December 5: Dynamite Kid
 December 5: Adrian Street
 December 5: Larry Zbyszko
 December 6: Nick Bockwinkel



December 13: Junkyard Dog
 December 13: Dino Bravo
 December 13: Boris Zukhov
 December 13: Brad Rheingans
 December 19: Gene Okerlund
 December 23: Tatsumi Fujinami
 December 27: Demoltion Ax

December 29, 1985: Stan Hansen wins the AWA World title from Rick Martel in East Rutherford, New Jersey

YOU HEAR IT in arenas and auditoriums around the country. A man rushes to the ring, the crowd stands, and one word echoes throughout the building.

"Hooooooo!"

Only one man could answer that call: Hacksaw Duggan.

Just as Hulk Hogan uses the cheers of all his "little Hulkamaniacs" to gain strength, Duggan utilizes the cheers of his fans to fortify himself. As he stands on the ring apron, one can almost visualize Duggan—2x4 in hand—growing in strength as the fans scream their support. Duggan is preparing to do battle. His target: WWF rulebreakers.

"He becomes a madman when the fans cheer for him," said WWF fan Pam Thompson. "That's why I cheer and yell 'Hooooooo!' He gets stronger and takes on all those scummy rulebreakers—and beats 'em! It's great, because he's setting a good example, an example that with enthusiasm and drive, any success is possible. I think that's a good message for kids today."

For most of 1988, Duggan has taken on the biggest competitor in the sport: Andre the Giant. Challenging the man who dethroned Hulk Hogan from the WWF championship might have appeared to be a mistake, but Duggan had the fan support he needed. Longtime WWF observers are convinced that the loudest applause of the year came when Duggan brutalized Andre with his 2x4 in Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

Sure, the fans were cheering because that was Andre—one of the most hated men in wrestling—flat on his back. More important, however, the fans were cheering for Duggan, their patriotic avenger. It's a role Duggan is very comfortable with.

So it's no coincidence that Duggan's recent opponents have been some of the WWF's most reviled stars. Currently, Duggan is locked



"JUST SAY"



Duggan clotheslines Dino Bravo, the latest anti-American WWF wrestler to take on Duggan. Hacksaw recently completed a feud with Andre the Giant.

HACKSAW DUGGAN'S MESSAGE TO AMERICA'S YOUTH: HOOOOOOO!"

WWF rulebreakers got you down? Well, just say, "*Hooooooo!*" and Hacksaw Duggan will come to the rescue! No man is more qualified to end the tyranny of rulebreakers—and defend the honor of his country



Hacksaw speaks with a young fan. Since arriving in the WWF, Duggan has become incredibly popular, thanks in part to his "*Hooooooo!*" battle cry.

in a vicious feud with Dino Bravo, a war with definite patriotic overtones. Bravo, a French Canadian, and his manager, Frenchy Martin, are reportedly part of a conspiracy against Duggan. Hacksaw, a flag-waving patriot, gets all the more fired up when the integrity of America is on the line.

"There's no question that Duggan gets more fired up when someone puts down the U.S.," said Dick Murdoch, who teamed occasionally with Duggan in the Mid-South area. "He's a crusader. The fans really got behind us when we

(Continued on page 50)

INTERVIEW

BUDDY ROBERTS

DON'T ASK BUDDY Roberts about The Freebirds anymore. He has a new mission: make The Samoan Swat Team the most fearsome duo in wrestling.

For almost 10 years, The Fabulous Freebirds—Roberts, Michael Hayes, and Terry Gordy—were one of the most successful teams in the sport. They were closer than brothers, wrestling together and partying 'til all hours of the night. They shared a bond forged by tough times and tougher opponents. Wherever they wrestled, they were feared and respected. They gave the impression that they'd be together until they retired.

Then, in late '87, the Freebirds split up. Each man had his own career goals he wanted to fulfill. Hayes went to the UWF (which soon thereafter was absorbed by the NWA), Gordy traveled to Japan, and Roberts returned to World Class, the site of many of the 'Birds triumphs and failures. Claiming that he was the "original" Freebird, Roberts teamed with Iceman Parsons and Angel of Death. Gordy joined them when he returned to the U.S. When Roberts led the quartet in a beating of Fritz Von Erich on Christmas Day 1987, Hayes decided to turn against his ex-partner. Later, Gordy changed his ways and sided with Hayes.

Though he continued to wrestle and battle his old partners, Roberts decided he wanted to be a manager. His search for talent led him to Samu and Fatu, two Samoans with plenty of talent and



Buddy Roberts has changed his image since he started managing the Samoan Swat Team. He says he enjoys wearing Samoan garb because Samu and Fatu—the World Class tag team champions—are such a great team. Roberts has led the Samoans into a feud with Michael Hayes and Steve Cox.

experience, but no guidance. Roberts said he would provide guidance.

Meanwhile, Hayes formed a team with Steve Cox, and Roberts now has a prime target for his Samoans. Over the past several months, the World Class tag team title has switched back and forth between the two teams. More than a feud, this has become a personal war between Roberts and Hayes. Thus far, there hasn't been a

winner.

With the recent announcement that the World Class tag title and the Texas title have been merged into a single World Class tag team championship, the stakes are even higher. Sports Review Wrestling Assistant Editor Gersh Kuntzman traveled to Ft. Worth, Texas, to interview Roberts, who was eager to discuss the details of his current exploits in Texas.

Q: Buddy, with all the success you and the Samoan Swat Team have been having lately, do you feel they might let up a little bit in their intensity?

A: If my men let up even one bit, I'd kick their butts! But that's never gonna happen, because Samu and Fatu are *always* trying to improve. There's still a lot to be done here in World Class; namely, shutting Michael Hayes' big mouth and getting rid of his friends. Michael thinks he's still a Freebird. Well he's *not!* He gave up that privilege when he broke his relationship with me. Remember, *I'm* the only Freebird. But let's not talk about the 'Birds, let's talk about the best tag team in the world, my Samoans.

Q: If they're such a great team, why do they need you to interfere on their behalf?

A: What the hell are you talking about, Kuntzman? My men are skilled athletes. They don't need any help.

Q: You've stuck your nose in countless matches between Hayes and Steve Cox and the Samoans. In fact, Harvey Martin, the former Dallas Cowboy, had to hold you back once.

A: That's a lie! It was *me* who was holding *Martin* back. Look what happened to ol' Harvey. The Samoans *destroyed* him! That's what happens when announcers think they know how to wrestle. He has no right in that ring. If he wants to broadcast, that's okay, let him pollute the airwaves with his lies about me and the Samoans. He paid a dear price for messing with my men. Wrestling is a hundred times rougher than football. I hear the Cowboys aren't doing too well. Maybe Martin should ask Tom Landry for a tryout again. He'd probably do a better job than some of those washed-up linemen they have.

Q: We're here to talk about wrestling, not football. Your men have had some outstanding matches against Hayes and Cox. Would you con-



Roberts is afraid of what World Class broadcaster Harvey Martin might do to him. The former Dallas Cowboy has prevented Roberts from interfering in several matches.

sider them your toughest opponents?

A: Listen, when you wrestle in World Class, they're *all* tough. In fact, I'd say there are other teams harder to beat than Hayes and Cox. Like Skandor Akbar and his men. They'll give you a lot of trouble. Hayes and his little pal are just a nuisance. We would have been finished with them a long time ago if they didn't cheat so much. That's what Michael has been teaching Cox: how to cheat. I'd file an official grievance with World Class officials, but those cowards wouldn't do anything. They're controlled by Hayes and the Von Erichs and everybody knows it. *That's* something you guys ought to investigate. Instead of accusing me of breaking the rules all the time, take a close look at *them*. *They're* the ones who are corrupt.

Q: This interview is about Buddy Roberts, not World Class. Let's talk about what *you're* doing.

A: This all ties together. I can't do my job right if these idiots don't let me. There's a conspiracy against us. Maybe some day I'll start my own federation and put the right kind of people in charge. The Roberts Wrestling Federation. I like the sound of that.

Q: You play the song "Don't Worry, Be Happy" when the Samoans come out to the ring. "Don't worry, be happy." Is that your philosophy?

A: Yeah. It's like telling whoever fights us, "You're gonna get beat up real bad, so you might as well enjoy it." That's our attitude. That's why we're the best. We don't worry about a damn thing. There's nobody around here who

(Continued on page 53)

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MAILBAG

(Continued from page 7)



When The Road Warriors turned against Sting and Lex Luger, reader Everlina Oliver became disgusted with them.

need for people like the Warriors in wrestling. There's no need for men like these anywhere!

EVERLINA L. OLIVER
Portsmouth, VA

A SMASH

I read with a great deal of pleasure your article on the NWA's Great American Bash cards in your November 1988 issue ("The Great American Bash! Full Coverage Of All The Action, Drama, and Controversy"). I must say that your photos brought back great memories for me.

You see, as an insatiable wrestling fan, I attended the Bashes in Baltimore, Philadelphia, Chicago, and right here in my hometown of Detroit. I will always consider 1988 to be the greatest wrestling summer of my life because of it.

To me, the Great American Bash series is just another example of why the NWA will always be number one with me. I got to see the now-classic "Tower of Doom" match that Jimmy Garvin won. I got to see a fabulous War Games match. Most important to me, I got to see the return of The Sheik right here in Detroit! You'd never see the WWF bring back a legend like this. Only the NWA cares enough



The Sheik draws blood from Dusty Rhodes. Their confrontation added to the thrill of The Great American Bash.

about the fans to offer such incredible matches!

The Great American Bash series was more than worth all the money I spent on tickets and car fare. I only hope that the NWA keeps bringing it to us every year from now on. I know I'll be there.

FRANK JANENS
Detroit

WHY NOT MIDGETS?

I'm simply appalled by the lack of consideration your magazine gives to midget wrestlers. I realize I may be in the minority, but I've always considered the midgets to be the most exciting part of any wrestling card they appear on. Why do you have this bias against these exciting stars?

I know there's not as many midgets in wrestling as there used to be, but the ones that have remained are some of the finest athletes to be found anywhere. My personal favorite is The Haiti Kid, but there are other greats like Lord Littlebrook, The Irish Leprechaun, The Karate Kid, and Tiger Jackson that delight audiences all over the world.

I was very saddened to learn that another one of my favorites from years past, Tom Thumb, passed away recently. If there ever was a world midget wrestling champion, Tom surely would have been the top contender. He had the talent to be the best the sport has ever seen.

(Continued on page 48)

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MAILBAG

(Continued from page 47)



This letter may not get more stories and photos of the midgets into your magazine, but one thing is for sure. Those mighty midgets will continue to surprise and delight wrestling fans like me for years to come!

RAY HOWELL
Birmingham, AL

A GILBERT GAFFE

He burned up the CWA. He nearly destroyed the CWF. And now he's in the NWA. Eddie Gilbert is not to be trusted. Instead, he should be banned from wrestling for life!

I couldn't believe it when I tuned in NWA wrestling and the fans were cheering for this wolf in sheep's cloth-

evil as men like Abdullah the Butcher and Big Bossman. I can't believe the fans are falling for this malarkey!

MARY LOWELL
Greenville, NC

HOOKED ON HOGAN

I am writing to take issue with Paul Lombardo, whose letter appeared in the November 1988 issue. I was enjoying the magazine until I ran into this incredible putdown of Hulk Hogan!

The first thing Lombardo said in the letter was that Hogan was a jerk. Well, let me tell you something, Mr. Lombardo, Elizabeth is now the manager of Hulk Hogan as well as Randy Savage. Savage agreed to this entire thing. Hogan is enough of a profes-



Elizabeth leads the crowd's cheers for Hulk Hogan and Randy Savage following their victory at SummerSlam. Reader Matthew Earle says Hogan is still the greatest.

ing! What a farce! Gilbert is suddenly acting like a fan favorite because his "friend," Jimmy Garvin, got his leg busted by Kevin Sullivan, huh? Well, I'm not buying it for a minute. Gilbert is the most evil man ever to don a pair of wrestling tights.

This year alone, Gilbert has burned Jerry Lawler, Austin Idol, Randy Hales, Jerry Jarrett, and a referee with dangerous fireballs. As far as I'm concerned, that makes him every bit as

professional to be able to devote part of his schedule to The Megapowers while still putting plenty of pressure on his enemies like Andre the Giant and Big Bossman.

When I read Lombardo's letter, I knew somebody—especially a devoted Hulkamaniac such as myself—had to say something! Hogan will always be number one!

MATTHEW EARLE
Nova Scotia, Canada □

The Haiti Kid breaks away from Billy the Kid. Reader Ray Howell is a big fan of midget wrestlers and would like to see more coverage of them.

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HACKSAW DUGGAN

(Continued from page 43)



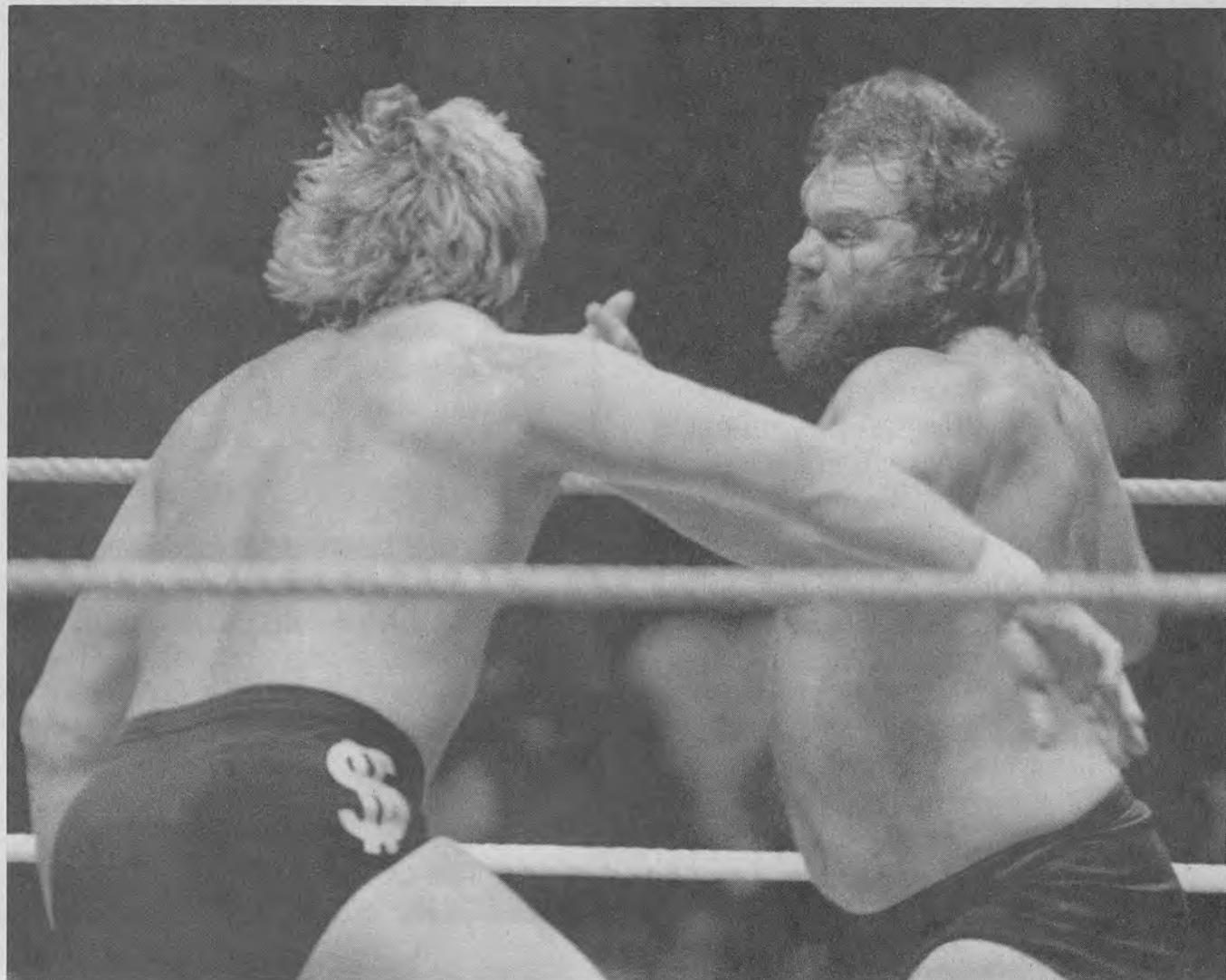
were fighting for America. Duggan continues that tradition. The fans know that when they cheer him, he'll rise to the occasion in defense of our great country."

The roots of Duggan's patriotism go back to his mid-1982 campaigns in the Mid-South region. During that period, Duggan and Ted DiBiase became a feared tag team. With Matt Borne, the rule-breaking trio became known as "The Rat Pack." But when DiBiase enlisted the managerial aid of Gen. Skandor Akbar, Duggan rejected the anti-Americanism of the Akbar-Dibiase alliance.

Picking up the mantle of patrio-

tism, Hacksaw began a one-man war against DiBiase, Akbar, and the rest of the Mid-South rule-breaking alliance, a war that quickly made Duggan one of the sport's most beloved fan favorites. Just as in the WWF today, Duggan took on wrestling's most hated men. The cheers of the fans provided some of the fuel; the rest came from Duggan's love of his country.

"Yeah, that would definitely be the turning point in Duggan's career," said Akbar. "After that point, Hacksaw was vicious toward all so-called anti-American teams. It seemed like every match in



Duggan pounces on Ron Bass (top) and prepares to pound Ted DiBiase (above). Despite Hacksaw's popularity, he has yet to challenge for a title since arriving in the WWF. In fact, he ended up on the short end of his feud with Andre.

which Duggan was involved broke down along patriotic lines. Of course, we were able to dominate Duggan because he was always too busy trying to salute the flag. The fans loved him for this, but we won all the matches and beat him to a pulp. When you get right down to it, Duggan's not much of a wrestler. Is it any wonder the fans worship him?"

Since that time, Duggan has continued to use his wrestling career to crusade for the American cause. Today, when he fights for patriotism, Duggan is basically saying, "When I hear the roar of the crowd screaming out 'Hooooooo!' I feel like I can take on anybody. No man is too strong for me. I can do anything. And in being successful, I can show kids that they can be just as successful. Hooooooo!"

And for Duggan, the personal glory of victory means very little; it's a whole country he's fighting for.

Just look at Duggan's recent actions against Dino Bravo. Enraged by Frenchy Martin's "U.S.A. Is Not OK" sign, Duggan has attacked Bravo's manager to a nearly greater degree than he's attacked Bravo! In a typical Bravo-Duggan match held recently in the Boston Garden, Duggan lost the match by countout as he chased Martin around the ring apron.

But while Bravo's arm was being raised in the ring, Duggan was inflicting the damage on Bravo's manager. The victory was a hollow one, for it was Duggan who continued to drink in the fans' cheers. Indeed, by going after Martin, Duggan sent the fans a patriotic message:

"Just Say 'Hooooooo!' and I'll be there for you."

As long as the fans continue to shout their response and their support, Duggan will continue battling the most evil rulebreakers the sport has produced.

America can do no better. □

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INQUIRING REPORTER

(Continued from page 12)

knew they had more than fear going for them. I don't agree with all the Warriors' methods, but I'm glad they've regained that championship form they'd lost. Now we'll stop hearing and reading about how the Warriors have lost their killer instinct."

Ian Moore, Quebec City: "The Warriors once were a team that I had a lot of respect for. They were tough and mean, but they had their morals. Not anymore. Now they're guided by hatred for their fellow man. Hawk and

Animal say they're proud not to have any friends in the sport, but I think that attitude will get them into big trouble. When they're in a tight situation, they're going to need help and nobody will be there for them. Eventually, they will have to make friends with some people if they want to survive."

Jack McGuire, Falmouth, MA: "At last, the Warriors have declared themselves free from the idiotic NWA fan favorites. What did Sting, Dusty, or Luger ever do for The Legion of Doom? Nothing! Paul Ellering has convinced his men that Dusty and his pals would only hurt them in the end. It's not surprising that only a few weeks after they beat up Sting, the Warriors won the tag belts from The Midnight Express. See what happens when you wise up? The Warriors are ready to rule for a long, long time."



Road Warrior Hawk presses Bobby Eaton. The Midnight Express are top contenders to the Warriors' title.

Lisa Buchanan, Vienna, VA: "I refuse to ever watch a Road Warrior match again! I love Sting; I'm his biggest fan. I was shocked when the Warriors turned against him. It wasn't Sting's fault that Dusty didn't show up for that match. Sting was just filling in for Dusty, like a good friend. If the Warriors were mad at Dusty, they should have beat *him* up first, not Sting. The Warriors better look out for Sting wherever they go. Sting will get them!"

Judy Dennison, Waco, TX: "When Hawk and Animal won the AWA World tag title, I was glad for them, because they certainly deserved it. They won the match fairly, and ruled the AWA for more than a year. When they lost the belts, it was because they were jobbed by the Freebirds. But when they won the NWA belts, they did it by attacking Bobby Eaton and Stan Lane before the bell. Why were they so afraid of guys so much smaller than they are? That incident made the Warriors go down a notch in my eyes." □

SPORTS REVIEW INTERVIEW

(Continued from page 45)

can beat us. I'm not afraid of Hayes. He's just stupid because he would've had a good thing going if he stayed with me. That goes for Gordy, too. That big lout is too dumb to figure out that Hayes is nothing but trouble. Gordy, if you're reading this, get back with me and I'll make you a star again. You need my help a lot more than you think you do.

Q: Terry Gordy is a great wrestler without your help.

A: Kuntzman, you're here to ask

A: I didn't have any say about it, but it was a good decision. A team of the Samoans' greatness deserves that kind of an honor. And if they deserve it, so do I. I'm the greatest manager in the world! There's nobody better. Who else could have taken two untamed Samoans and molded them into champions? The answer is *nobody*. Only *I* could have done it. *I'm* the one who picked them up when nobody else wanted them. *I'm* the one who got them the match against the Von

why Samu and Fatu are great champions. They're dedicated to winning and they're dedicated to me. I'd show you where the boys work out, but it's a secret location. If I let you see it, you'd blab it out to all your reporter friends. I'm not stupid.

Q: One of the most ridiculous things I've heard in a long time is that you decided to run for President of the United States.

A: Well, I *did* run, and I got a lot of write-in votes. People are ready for a Buddy Roberts presidency. And I'll tell you something else, it got me a lot of publicity. More people than ever know that Buddy Roberts is on their side.

Q: That sounds familiar. But, as a matter of fact, Buddy, I checked with the local Board of Elections and found out you didn't receive a single vote, write-in or otherwise.

A: Who are you gonna believe, me or some stupid bureaucrats? I would've made a *great* president. What this country needs is somebody with my obvious intelligence. I'd turn this country around like I turned the Swats around. I even think I might run again in 1992. Why should America be denied my special brand of leadership?

Q: Do you have any plans to manage anyone else?

A: I'm scouting a lot of teams right now, but all my time is concentrated on the Swats at the moment. When you set standards as high as mine, sometimes it's difficult to find good men. But I'm always looking. Eventually I'm gonna control all the belts in World Class. I'll be calling the shots and telling Michael Hayes and the Von Erichs what they can and can't do. They might have it easy now, but they'd better be looking over their shoulders.

Q: Thank you for your time, Buddy.

A: Right. Now get the hell out of here!



Hayes stops Roberts from leaving the ring. As Freebirds, Hayes and Roberts were closer than brothers, but when Hayes decided to side with the Von Erichs, Roberts couldn't stay friends with his partner.

questions and take down my answers, not blabber your own biased opinions. To tell you the truth, I don't care *what* Gordy does with his career. The Samoan Swat Team is what's important. They're the team that's gonna make you forget about all the others. And they're even better when I join them in six-man matches.

Q: As you know, the Texas and World Class tag titles were just unified into one championship. Did you have anything to do with that?

Erichs when they won the title.

Q: Samu and Fatu were fine wrestlers in their own right before you started managing them.

A: They were good, but not good enough for me. I spent a lot of time and money on those boys. They tell me every day how much they appreciate what I do for them. That's what they'd tell you if they were here. Right now they're out training. I gave them a specific workout and they're following it down to the letter. That's

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TATTERL

(Continued from page 8)

When reached in Minneapolis, Garvin refused to confirm the rumors. "I am going to the WWF—and for quite a bit of money, I might add—but I have not decided whether I will take on a manager," Garvin said. "A manager means a bite out of my earnings, and I don't feel like throwing around my hard-earned money. Besides, I've always gotten by on my own."

"I must admit, however, that Bobby is a great manager, one of the best in the sport, and I see where he has a great track record of getting his men title shots. If he can offer me as much as I can offer him, I might be willing to go along with him. But let me tell you one thing:

I'm not taking a backseat to no one, especially Tully and Arn. I had enough of them in the NWA."

Tim Horner is also scheduled to start with the WWF shortly. Meanwhile, D.J. Peterson has returned to the Central States area after a brief, unsuccessful stay in the WWF.

In other WWF news, Sherri Martel lost the WWF World women's title to Rockin' Robin in Paris. Martel and Robin were part of the WWF's recent tour of Europe. Sherri had held the belt since July 24, 1987, when she unseated Fabulous Moolah. Martel and Robin are scheduled for a series of rematches.

Although rivals in the ring, Martel and Robin reportedly joined together



SHERRI MARTEL

in a recent clash with WWF management. According to our sources, both women were upset that a women's match was not included on the Survivor Series card. Last year's women's match was extremely well-received by the fans.

—Alison Corey

CHARLOTTE, NC: "The war between the original Midnight Express and those frauds Jim Cornette sends out will take over the NWA in 1989," said manager Paul E. Dangerously during an exclusive interview with *Sports Review Wrestling*. "Nothing else will matter."

Dangerously, who orchestrated Dennis Condrey and Randy Rose's brutal attack on Cornette and his Midnight Express—Stan Lane and Bobby Eaton—also said that winning the NWA World title is not his top priority. In fact, said Dangerously, it's not a priority at all.

"Dennis and Randy have won all the belts they'll ever need," Dangerously said. "This is a matter of pride and teaching that loudmouth Cornette a lesson. I don't care what he says, I've challenged Cornette a million times, and he's never accepted the challenge. Well, this time he has no choice."

Dangerously was also enraged by the NWA's decision to sanction Lane and Eaton vs. Barry Windham and Ric Flair as the main event on the December 7 Clash of the Champions card. "Who the heck cares about Windham and Flair?" Dangerously asked. "They don't have the tag belts, and they're not the ones that're out to kick Lane and Eaton's butts. We are!"

It is expected, however, that the original Midnights will meet Cornette's Midnights several times before long. This feud has captured the imagination of fans across the country, inspiring vast interest in what would normally be a harmless question:

What's in a name?

—Ken Miranda

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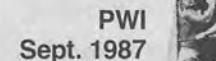
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SCRAPBOOK

(Continued from page 14)

protested the decision and demanded an immediate rematch ... Black Gordman was the winner of the annual 22-man Los Angeles battle royal. Gordman hit Victor Rivera from behind with a chair to win the \$20,000 prize money ... Bruno Sammartino made his first Boston title defense since regaining the WWF championship and was victorious over former champion Stan Stasiak ... Mil Mascaras returned from Japan, intending to go after Blackjacks Mulligan and Lanza ...

Patera were the winners of a two-ring, 24-man battle royal in Chicago's International Amphitheatre. The event was broadcast on ABC's *Wide World of Sports* ... Handsome Jimmy Valiant joined forces with his brother Luscious John, beginning a reign of tag team competition that would culminate in their winning the WWF tag team belts ... Jose Gonzales was amazing fans in the east with his flying maneuvers.

NWA RATINGS: 1—Jack Brisco; 2—Terry Funk; 3—Dory



Capt. Lou Albano led Johnny and Jimmy Valiant to the WWF tag team title. The Valiant Brothers were just one of 12 different teams Albano led to championship gold.

WWF wrestlers and fans were eager to discover the identity of Mr. X, one of the most vicious wrestlers ever in the federation ... Olympic star Chris Taylor was chasing the AWA heavyweight title held by Verne Gagne ... Superstar Billy Graham and Ken

Funk Jr.; 4—The Sheik; 5—John Tolos; 6—Moondog Mayne; 7—Tim Woods; 8—Harley Race; 9—Gene Kiniski; 10—Buddy Colt.

AWA RATINGS: 1—Verne Gagne; 2—Billy Robinson; 3—Billy Graham; 4—Crusher; 5—Ray

(Continued on page 58)

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September 1979/Flair-McDaniel, Garvin, Ladd, Rhodes.
 February 1980/Rhodes-Funk, Race, Spoiler, Brisco.
 May 1980/Koloff-Anderson, Brody-Spoiler, Graham, Andre.
 October 1980/Hogan, Flair, Wrestling II, Super D.
 January 1981/Morales-Fuji, Zbyszko, Thornton, Keirn.
 June 1981/Morales-Khan, Lawler, Slater, Piper.
 September 1981/Backlund-Mosca, Freebirds, Flair, Rich, Junkyard Dog.
 November 1981/Rhodes-Dibiase, Steamboat, Mulligan, McDaniel, Spoiler.
 December 1981/Muraco-Morales, Patera, Steele, Andre.
 March 1982/Valentine, Brisco-Funk, Steele, Flair, Hayes.
 April 1982/Spoiler, Idol-Hayes, Morales, Super D, Ladd.
 May 1982/Rich-Flair, Backlund, Superstar, Dillon, Wrestling II.
 June 1982/Tommy Rich, Jimmy Snuka, Wrestlers rate each other.
 July 1982/Steamboat-Idol, Albano, Rhodes, Patera.
 August 1982/Piper-Rich, Flair-Slater, Rhodes, Valentine, Bockwinkel.
 October 1982/Funk-Abdullah, Orton, Kabuki, Von Erich.
 November 1982/Piper, Abdullah, Saito, Von Erich, Mascaras.
 December 1982/Backlund-Rose, Rhodes-Flair, Albano, Humperdink.
 January 1983/Rich, McDaniel-Valentine, Patera, Brisco, Bockwinkel.
 February 1983/Flair-Race, Morales-Rose, Patera, Bravo, Spoiler.
 March 1983/Flair-Bass, Snuka, Sullivan, Steamboat, Patera.
 April 1983/Backlund-Graham, Briscos, Rhodes, Hogan, Samoans.
 May 1983/Muraco, Dillon, Sullivan, Reed, Brisco, Von Erich.
 June 1983/Piper, Bockwinkel-Patterson, Brody, Sullivan, Baba.
 July 1983/Valiant-Humperdink, Martel, Hernandez, Murdoch, Armstrong.
 October 1983/Martel-Valentine, Mulligan, Lawler, Von Erichs, Bruno.
 November 1983/Andre-Mulligan, Kamala-Brody, Slater, Backlund.

December 1983/Windham-LeDuc, Santana, Sullivan, Garvin.
 January 1984/Andre-Abdullah, Bockwinkel, Gilbert, Windham, Flair, Mosca.
 February 1984/Rich-Sawyer, Idol-Hansen, Martel, Parsons, Von Erich.
 March 1984/Starrcade '83, Closeups on Atlanta and Dallas cards.
 April 1984/Von Erich-Gordy, Dillon & Nagasaki, Graham, DiBiase, Orndorf.
 May 1984/LeDuc-Sawyer, Assassins, The Men Who Make Wrestling Fly!
 June 1984/Windham-Flair, Gilbert, Sawyer, Bockwinkel, Tsuruta.
 July 1984/Flair-Gordy, Duggan, Blanchard, Brisco, AWA tag tourney.
 August 1984/Rich & Gilbert, Adams-Hayes, Von Erich, Faces Of Wrestling.
 September 1984/Flair-Steamboat, Freebirds-Von Erichs—Special coverage of two big cards.
 October 1984/Sullivan-Rhodes, Freebirds video, Atlas, Orange Bowl card.
 November 1984/Von Erich & Billy Jack, Andre, Fab Ones, Summer Wars!
 December 1984/Rich-Gilbert, Martel, Mascaras, Youngblood, World Class.
 January 1985/Flair-McDaniel, Missing Link, Backlund, Fabulous Ones, Pro Wrestling USA, Valentine.
 February 1985/Sullivan-Graham, Hernandez & Nicola Roberts, Bruno Jr., Steamboat, Warriors.
 March 1985/Starrcade '84 featuring Flair, Rhodes, Steamboat, Koloffs, 1985 Datebook, Hayes, wrestling school.
 April 1985/Von Erich-Blackwell, Haynes-Barr, Hart, Irwin, 1984 in Pictures, Blair.
 May 1985/Albano, Freebirds-Flair, Steamboat, Hernandez, Las Vegas.
 June 1985/Pro Wrestling U.S.A., Von Erich, Richter, Windham, Taylor.
 July 1985/Von Erich, WrestleMania, bloodiest matches, Backlund, Snuka.
 August 1985/Flair-Nikita, Orndorf, Slaughter, Parade of Champions II.
 September 1985/Adams-Von Erich, Orndorf, Sawyer, Kamala, Barr.
 October 1985/Martel-Hayes, Richter, Savage, Adams, T.A., Warriors.
 November 1985/Freebirds-Warriors, Mid-South, Haynes, Rhodes, Savage.
 December 1985/Grappling Ghouls, Hogan-Andre, Luger-Nikita, Boesch card

December 1985/Hogan, Zbyszko-Martel, Murdoch, Dillon, fiendish faces.
 January 1986/Savage-Santana, Abdullah, Humongous, Von Raschke, Comiskey Park, Taylor.
 February 1986/Junkyard Dog, Rude, Patrick, Garvin, Reed, Datebook.
 March 1986/Starrcade '85, Ventura, Windham, Sunshine, Slaughter.
 April 1986/Savage-Hogan, Martel-Hansen, 1985 in Pictures, Warriors, DiBiase, Sunshine-Hyatt, Slater, Devastating Holds, Hall & Hennig.
 June 1986/Hogan-Muraco, Midnight Express, Freebirds, Battle of Belts II.
 July 1986/Orndorf-Piper, Blanchard-T.A., Matches of '80s, Sheepherders, Bockwinkel, Bulldogs.
 August 1986/Crockett Cup Tourney, Jake Roberts, Midnight Rockers, Von Erichs, Wrestling II.
 September 1986/Bulldogs, Blanchard-Gibson, Lugar, Dundee, UWF tourney.
 October 1986/Orndorf, Rude-Brody, Bash, Bockwinkel, Gordy, Adams.
 November 1986/Andersons-R&R Express, Machine, Gordy, Managers.
 December 1986/Machines, Fantastics, Warriors, WWF Machnick Tourney.
 January 1987/Russians, Hyatt-Dark Journey, WWF Top 50, Fab Ones.
 February 1987/Road Warriors, Savage, Windham & Lugar, 1987 Datebook.
 March 1987/Kamala-Hogan, Starrcade '86, Atlas, Williams, Tatum.
 April 1987/1986 In Pictures, Kevin Von, Flair, Rich, Hennig-Bockwinkel.
 May 1987/Nikita-Flair, Bulldogs, Albano's career, Snuka-DeBeers, Taylor.
 June 1987/Hogan-Andre, Hall, Parsons, Garvin, WWF title history.
 July 1987/Midnight Express, Savage-Steamboat, Adams, NWA in Boston.
 August 1987/Nord-Kevin, Armstrong-Flair, Hogan & Patera, Crockett Cup.
 September 1987/Hogan, Akbar, Luger-Nikita, Summer Feuds, charity shows.
 October 1987/Windham, Bigelow, Bockwinkel, Western States tourney.
 November 1987/Bash, Honky Tonk, Hart, Sheepherders, Condrey.
 December 1987/Grappling Ghouls, Hogan-Andre, Luger-Nikita, Boesch card



JANUARY 1988

January 1988/Honky Tonk, Garvin, T.A. career, Arcidi, Hogan.
 February 1988/Rhodes, Strike Force, Rich-Adonis, Hyatt, 1988 datebook.
 March 1988/Starrcade, Survivor Series, Simpson, Hennig, Zbyszko.
 April 1988/1987 In Pictures, Tully & Arn, DiBiase, Kerry, Orton.
 May 1988/Hawk-Flair, Andre-Hogan, Dangerously, Duggan, Mike George.
 June 1988/Luger-Tully, DiBiase, Adams, NWA New York invasion.
 July 1988/Savage wins WWF tourney, Rockers-Express, Hayes, Dusty-Rider.
 August 1988/Luger and Sting win Crockett Cup, Savage-Dibiase, Nasty Boys, Ultimate Warrior.
 September 1988/Predictions Through 1988, Williams, Rhodes, Bad Company, greatest Garden matches.
 October 1988/Midnight Rockers, Sting, Taylor, Koloff, Hot Young Lions.
 November 1988/R&R Express, Honky Tonk, Von Erichs, Great American Bash.
 December 1988/Warriors, Samoan SWAT Team, Hart, Andre, Presidential Wrestlers.
 January 1989/Jake-Cheryl-Rude, Sting, Lawler, Flair, Savage's career.

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SCRAPBOOK

(Continued from page 56)

Stevens; 6—Nick Bockwinkel; 7—Ivan Koloff; 8—Red Bastien; 9—Larry Heinimi; 10—Greg Gagne.

WWF RATINGS: 1—Bruno Sammartino; 2—Pedro Morales; 3—Chief Jay Strongbow; 4—Nikolai Volkoff; 5—Don Leo Jonathan; 6—Stan Stasiak; 7—Larry Hennig; 8—Gorilla Monsoon; 9—Tony Garea; 10—Mike McCord.

TAG TEAMS: 1—Kurt Von Hess and Karl Von Shotz; 2—Ray Stevens and Nick Bockwinkel; 3—Bruiser and Bruno Sammartino; 4—The Fabulous Kangaroos; 5—Lord Al Hays and Roger Kirby; 6—Tony Garea and Dean Ho; 7—Raul Mata and Victor Rivera; 8—Goliath and Black Gordman; 9—Jos and Paul LeDuc; 10—Ken Patera and Chris Taylor.

JANUARY/FEBRUARY

1979

RICK STEAMBOAT WON the United States title, defeating Ric Flair in 37 minutes to take the belt . . . Hisashi Shinma was appointed the new president of the WWF . . . After engaging in a particularly brutal struggle against Bruiser Brody, Jack Brisco, ashamed of his own tactics, said "I'm no better than Brody" . . . Dusty Rhodes and Andre the Giant were the winners of a tag team tournament in New Orleans . . . WWF champion Bob Back-



Bob Backlund whips Peter Maivia across the ring during their 1979 cage match in Madison Square Garden. Backlund won the bout and retained his WWF World title.



Rick Steamboat headlocks Ric Flair. Steamboat defeated Flair for the U.S. title in a memorable 37-minute match back in 1979.

lund admitted that he was petrified of wrestling Bulldog Brower. "He's a psycho," Backlund said . . . Meanwhile, Backlund finished off a bloody feud with turncoat Peter Maivia, beating the Samoan chief in a cage match at Madison Square Garden . . . Bobby Heenan was suspended from the AWA for hitting AWA president Stanley Blackburn in a ring in Minneapolis . . . Former New York Jet football player Verlon Biggs was in the midst of a long winning streak in his rookie year wrestling in Memphis . . . Kerry Von Erich made his Houston debut in a six-man tag team match with brother Kevin and father Fritz.

NWA RATINGS: 1—Harley Race; 2—Dusty Rhodes; 3—Andre the Giant; 4—Rick Steamboat; 5—Ken Patera; 6—Masked Superstar; 7—Ric Flair; 8—Jim Garvin; 9—Jack Brisco; 10—Mil Mascaras.

AWA RATINGS: 1—Nick Bockwinkel; 2—Verne Gagne; 3—Jim Brunzell; 4—Greg Gagne; 5—Jerry Lawler; 6—Billy Robinson; 7—
(Continued on page 60)

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THE Wrestler

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May 1980/Stories include: Andre, Masa, Bockwinkel, Patera.

June 1980/Stories include: Backlund, Abdullah, Brisco, Flair.

August 1980/Stories include: Valentine, Zbyszko, Von Erich, Albano.

September 1980/Stories include: Ladd, Patera, Steamboat, Gagne.

October 1980/Stories include: Patera, Rhodes, Wrestling II, Morales.

January 1981/Stories include: Valentine, Rhodes, Patera, Von Erich.

February 1981/Stories include: Zbyszko, Patera, Iron Sheik, Wrestling II.

March 1981/Stories include: Rich, Samoans, Blassie, Wrestling II.

May 1981/Stories include: Backlund, Rhodes, DiBiase, Moondogs.

June 1981/Stories include: Sammartino, Piper, Rich, Martel.

July 1981/Stories include: Backlund, Rhodes, Flair, Atlas.

August 1981/Stories include: DiBiase, Slaughter, Martel, Idol.

October 1981/Stories include: Funks, Rhodes, Race, Sullivan.

January 1982/Stories include: Rich, Steamboat, Sullivan, Sammartino.

March 1982/Stories include: Slaughter, Albano, Flair, Race.

April 1982/Stories include: Brisco, Armstrongs, Valentine, Santana.

May 1982/Stories include: Backlund, Von Erich, Graham, Rich.

June 1982/Stories include: Steamboat, Reed, Albano, Piper.

July 1982/Stories include: Rich, Sawyer, Flair, Steamboat.

August 1982/Stories include: Bockwinkel, Steamboat, Mulligans, Piper.

September 1982/Stories include: Rhodes, Hogan, Armstrong, Blair.

October 1982/Stories include: Snuka, Rhodes, Santana, Piper.

November 1982/Stories include: Flair, Snuka, Piper, Blair.

December 1982/Stories include: Snuka, Rich, Kamala, Junkyard Dog.

January 1983/Stories include: Putski, Muraco, Windham, Bockwinkel.

February 1983/Stories include: Bockwinkel, Backlund, Rich, Kamala.

April 1983/Stories include: Rhodes, Tiger Mask, Sammartino, Bundy.

May 1983/Stories include: Samoans, Von Erich, Rhodes, Orndorff.

June 1983/Stories include: Windham, Martel, Brody, Andre.

July 1983/Stories include: Flair, Adonis, Sullivan, Zbyszko.

August 1983/Stories include: Valentine, Blanchard, Windham, Street.

September 1983/Stories include: Hogan, Ellering, Von Erich, Briscos.

October 1983/Stories include: Race, Sawyer, Briscos, Bass.

November 1983/Stories include: Rhodes, Santana, Von Erichs, Kabuki.

December 1983/Stories include: Mascares, Superstar, Von Erich, Zbyszko.

January 1984/Stories include: Valentine, Hogan, Von Erich, Road Warriors.

March 1984/Stories include: Santana, Hogan, Von Erich, Sawyer.

April 1984/Stories include: Hogan, Ellering, Von Erich, Rhodes.

May 1984/Stories include: Windham, Brody, Road Warriors, Junkyard Dog.

June 1984/Stories include: Von Erich, Billy Jack, Flair, Armstrong.

July 1984/Stories include: Rich, Billy Jack, Valiant, Von Erich.

August 1984/Stories include: Garvin, Sullivan, Freebirds, Street.

September 1984/Stories include: Von Erich, Piper, Steamboat, Billy Jack.

October 1984/Stories include: Flair, Rhodes, Magnum T.A., Bundy.

November 1984/Stories include: Billy Jack, Von Erich, Piper, Brody.

December 1984/Stories include: Martel, Santana, Von Erich, Steamboat.

January 1985/Stories include: Von Erich, Warriors, Albano, Koloffs.

February 1985/Stories include: Warriors, Santana, Billy Jack, Nikita Koloff.

March 1985/Stories include: Slaughter, Warriors, Martel, Rude.

April 1985/Stories include: Warriors, Von Erich-Adams, Flair, Tonga & Snuka.

May 1985/Stories include: Warriors, Backlund, Santana, Rich.

June 1985/Stories include: Rhodes, Windham, Rich, Hogan.

July 1985/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Reed, Martel, Sunshine.

August 1985/BONUS 4-PG. COLOR SECTION! Plus: Warriors, Magnum T.A., Sheik & Volkoff, McGraw.

September 1985/Stories include: Hogan, Von Erich, Savage, R&R Express.

October 1985/Stories include: Flair, Windham, Shultz, Martel.

November 1985/Stories include: Hogan, Zbyszko, R&R Express, Von Erichs.

December 1985/Stories include: Rude, Fantastics, Muraco, Uncle Elmer.

January 1986/20th Anniversary Issue! 10 Greatest Wrestlers, Rhodes, Hogan, Sammartino.

February 1986/Stories include: Hogan, Orndorff, Flair, Hansen.

March 1986/Stories include: Von Erich, Duggan, Hansen-Martel.

April 1986/Stories include: Von Erich, Rude, Lugar, Hogan, Magnum T.A.

May 1986/Stories include: Zbyszko, Von Erichs, Santana-Ventura, Hillbillies.

June 1986/Stories include: Lugar, Hernandez, Flair-Bockwinkel, Hogan, T.A.

July 1986/Stories include: King Kong Bundy, Koloff vs. Graham, Ric Flair.

August 1986/Stories include: Snuka, Bulldogs, Freebirds, Warriors, Duggan.

September 1986/Stories include: Fantastics, Adonis, Morton-Flair, Brody.

October 1986/Stories include: Nikita-Magnum, Nord, Bruno, Kerry, Windham.

November 1986/Stories include: R&R Express, Hogan-Orndorff, Von Erich.

December 1986/Stories include: Flair, Bockwinkel, Hogan, Gilbert, Nikita.

January 1987/Stories include: Heenan, Garvin, DiBiase, Borne & Sawyer.

February 1987/Stories include: Magnum T.A., Gordy, Steamboat-Roberts.

March 1987/Stories include: Windham, Nikita, Adias, Savage-Steambat.

April 1987/Stories include: Hogan, Luger, Rich-Lawler, R&R Express.

May 1987/Stories include: Flair-Nikita, Andre-Hogan, UWF, Windham, Hennig.

June 1987/Stories include: Flair-Windham, Can-Ams, Rhodes-Murdoch.

July 1987/Stories include: Cornette, Hyatt, Luger, Harts, Adams, Hansen.

August 1987/Stories include: Can-Ams, Luger vs. Nikita, Fantastics, Koko, Nord.

September 1987/Stories include: Koloff, Harts, Duggan, Hennig, Hart.

October 1987/Stories include: Savage-Honky Tonk, Horsemen, Patera, Kerry.

November 1987/Stories include: Williams, Luger, Hogan-Khan, Rich.

December 1987/Stories include: Hogan, Windham, Lawler, Flair, Beefcake.

January 1988/Stories include: Nikita-Taylor, Warriors, DiBiase-Duggan.

February 1988/Stories include: Flair, Andre-Hogan, New Breed, Kerry.

March 1988/Stories include: Hogan, Luger-Sting, Calgary, Demolition.

April 1988/Special issue! Starrcade '87, Survivor Series, AWA & World Class. Also: Strike Force, Luger, Rockers.

May 1988/Stories include: Horsemen, Hogan, Flair, Fantastics, DiBiase.

June 1988/Stories include: Sting-Flair, DiBiase, Kerry, Nikita, Zenk.

July 1988/Stories include: Fantastics, Hogan, Windham, McMahon, Rich.

August 1988/Stories include: Savage, Windham-Luger split, Demolition, Lawler, Ellering.

September 1988/Stories include: Duggan vs. Andre, Hogan, Windham.

October 1988/Stories include: Rhodes, Fantastics, Hennig, Roberts-Rude.

November 1988/Stories include: Midnight Ex., DiBiase, Bossman, Brody.

January 1989/Stories include: Kevin Von, Rougeaus, Horsemen, Hogan.

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SCRAPBOOK

(Continued from page 58)

Stan Hansen; 8—Super Destroyer II; 9—Crusher; 10—Ray Stevens.

WWF RATINGS: 1—Bob Backlund; 2—Greg Valentine; 3—Bulldog Brower; 4—Peter Maivia; 5—Dusty Rhodes; 6—Ivan Koloff; 7—Ivan Putski; 8—Victor Rivera; 9—Chief Jay Strongbow; 10—Spiros Arion.

TAG TEAMS: 1—Jimmy Snuka and Paul Orndorff; 2—Pat Patterson and Ray Stevens; 3—Larry Zbyszko and Tony Garea; 4—The Valiant Brothers; 5—Jack and Jerry Brisco; 6—Ken Patera and John Studd; 7—Greg Gagne and Jim Brunzell; 8—Dusty Rhodes and Andre the Giant; 9—Mr. Uganda and Pak Song; 10—David and Kevin Von Erich.

JANUARY/FEBRUARY

1984

HULKAMANIA BEGAN AT Madison Square Garden on January 23, when Hulk Hogan defeated The Iron Sheik in five minutes and 40 seconds to win the WWF World title. Hogan had arrived in the WWF only a few weeks earlier . . . The WWF Intercontinental title changed hands when Tito Santana beat Magnificent Muraco at the Boston Garden on February 11 . . . The wres-

(Continued on page 62)



Hulk Hogan flings The Iron Sheik out of the ring after winning the WWF World championship in dramatic fashion, breaking the Sheik's dreaded camel clutch.

BACK ISSUES OF



Inside Wrestling

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June 1979/Stories include: Rhodes, Superstar, Bockwinkel, Backlund.

July 1979/Stories include: Rhodes, Ladd, Valiant, Brower.

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September 1979/Stories include: Steamboat, Mascaras, Strongbow, Garvin.

February 1980/Stories include: Patera, Snuka, Santana, Albano.

April 1980/Stories include: Hogan, Rich, Backlund, Mascaras.

May 1980/Stories include: Sammartino, Murdoch, Mulligan, Bockwinkel.

June 1980/Stories include: Putski, Andre, Hernandez, Keirn.

August 1980/Stories include: Sammartino, Wrestling II, Baker, Koloff.

September 1980/Stories include: Mascaras, Rhodes, Ladd, Iron Sheik.

November 1980/Stories include: Rhodes, Putski, Bockwinkel, Koloff.

January 1981/Stories include: Race, Snuka, Morales, Slater.

April 1981/Stories include: Albano, Sammartino Jr., Race, McGraw.

May 1981/Stories include: Iron Sheik, Von Erich, Backlund, Santana.

June 1981/Stories include: Rhodes, Hansen, Piper, Gagne.

September 1981/Stories include: Patera, Koloff, Khan, Junkyard Dog.

January 1982/Stories include: Flair, Hogan, Race, Humpertind.

February 1982/Stories include: Valentine, Flair, Steamboat, Rhodes.

March 1982/Stories include: Rich, Backlund, Idol, Spoiler.

April 1982/Stories include: Rhodes, Andre, Von Erich, Piper.

May 1982/Stories include: Backlund, Rhodes, Hogan, Von Erich.

June 1982/Stories include: Valentine, Von Erich, Slaughter, Morales.

July 1982/Stories include: Hogan, Rhodes, Steamboat, Adonis.

August 1982/Stories include: Andre, Bockwinkel, Steamboat, Backlund.

September 1982/Stories include: Atlas, Piper, Lawler, Brody.

October 1982/Stories include: Rich, Andre, Piper, Dillon.

November 1982/Stories include: Flair, Snuka, Von Erich, Slaughter.

December 1982/Stories include: Mulligan, Rich, Lawler, Grand Wizard.

February 1983/Stories include: Rhodes, Hogan, DiBiase, Race.

March 1983/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Graham, Johnson, Funk.

April 1983/Stories include: Snuka, Patera, Kabuki, Rich.

May 1983/Stories include: Rich, Snuka, Sullivan, Steamboat.

June 1983/Stories include: Studd, Garvin, Rogers, Orton.

July 1983/Stories include: Hogan, Freebirds, Rhodes, Youngblood.

August 1983/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Garvin, Sullivan, Lawler.

September 1983/Stories include: Zbysko, Piper, Andre, Hayes.

October 1983/Stories include: Wrestling II, Backlund, Junkyard Dog, Rhodes.

November 1983/Stories include: Hogan, Reed, Von Erich, Dillon.

December 1983/Stories include: Von Erich, Samoans, Valiant, Road Warriors.

March 1984/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Rich, Rhodes, Garvin.

April 1984/Stories include: Flair, Steamboat, Superstar, Windham.

May 1984/Stories include: Iron Sheik, Steamboat, Rotundo, Von Erich.

June 1984/Stories include: Flair, Slaughter, Cornette, DiBiase.

July 1984/Stories include: Valiant, Flair, Martel, Wrestling II.

August 1984/Stories include: Junkyard Dog, Magnum T.A., Idol, Spoiler.

September 1984/Stories include: Martel, Brody, Von Erich, Iron Sheik.

October 1984/Stories include: Billy Jack, Road Warriors, Steamboat, Piper.

November 1984/Stories include: Rhodes, Rich, Hernandez, Warriors.

December 1984/Stories include: Hogan, Warriors, Sullivan, Magnum T.A.

January 1985/Stories include: Magnum T.A., Rhodes, Atlas, Von Erich.

February 1985/Stories include: Rich, Adams, Valiant, Flair.

March 1985/Stories include: Backlund, Billy Jack, Koloffs, Von Erichs.

April 1985/Stories include: Warriors, Albano & Hogan, Steamboat, Gordy.

May 1985/Stories include: Slaughter, Garvin, Albano, Koloffs.

June 1985/Stories include: Warriors, Slaughter, Von Erichs, Studd & Patera.

July 1985/Stories include: Hogan, Von Erich, Nikita, Warriors.

August 1985/Stories include: Wrestlemania, Zbysko vs. The Tonga Kid.

September 1985/Stories include: Piper, Flair, Fantastics, Magnum T.A.

October 1985/Stories include: Russian menace, Von Erichs, Rude & Barr.

November 1985/Stories include: Steamboat, Adams, Freebirds, Cornette.

December 1985/Stories include: Santana, Brody, Andersons, Murdoch.

January 1986/Stories include: Steamboat, Mike Von Erich, Warriors.

February 1986/Stories include: R'n'R Express, Warriors, Mulligan & Windham.

March 1986/Stories include: Windham & Rotundo, Warriors-Russians, Rude.

April 1986/Stories include: Scott Hall, Rhodes, Flair, Andre, Bill Watts.

May 1986/Stories include: Randy Savage, Stan Hansen, Rock 'n' Rolls.

June 1986/Stories include: Bulldogs, Windham-Flair, Lance Von, Blanchard.

July 1986/All-American Special Issue. Stories include: Hogan, Slaughter, T.A.

August 1986/Stories include: Wrestlemania 2, Garvin, Martel, Fab Ones.

September 1986/Stories include: Andre, Rhodes-T.A., Adams, Windham.

October 1986/Stories include: Flair-Lugar, Savage, Fantastics, Warriors.

November 1986/Stories include: Warriors-Flair, Bulldogs, Watts, Adams.

December 1986/Stories include: Hogan-Adonis, R&R Express, Baby Doll.

January 1987/Stories include: Rude-Flair, Piper, T.A., Taylor.

February 1987/Stories include: Hogan-Piper-Orndorff, Taylor, Flair.

March 1987/Stories include: Flair, Missy, Luger, Bulldogs, Koloffs.

April 1987/Stories include: Windham, Steamboat, Ellering, Duggan.

May 1987/Stories include: Windham & Luger, Steamboat, Hogan-Andre.

June 1987/Stories include: Piper-Adonis, Horsemen, Adams, Hall, Brody.

July 1987/Stories include: Danny Davis, DiBiase, Rockers, Rotundo, Andersons.

August 1987/Stories include: Dusty & Nikita, Hogan, Mike Von, Cornette.

September 1987/Stories include: Hogan-Race, R&R Exp., Rich, Honky Tonk.

October 1987/Stories include: R&R Express, Hogan, Taylor-Adams, Lawler.

November 1987/Stories include: War Games, Mr. T, Bulldogs, Rhodes.

December 1987/Stories include: Freebirds, Rhodes, Magnum, Savage, Perez.

January 1988/Stories include: R&R Horsemen, Hogan, Flair-Garvin.

February 1988/Stories include: Savage, Kevin Von, Sting, Tully & Arn.

March 1988/Stories include: Bigelow, Adams, Koloff, Honky Tonk, Freebirds.

April 1988/Stories include: Luger-Flair, Ultimate Warrior, Andre-Hogan-Dibiase.

May 1988/Stories include: Zbysko, DiBiase, Warriors, Rockers, Fritz Von.

June 1988/Stories include: Warriors, Savage, R&R Express, Baby Doll.

July 1988/Stories include: Hogan-Savage-Dibiase, Kerry & Hayes, Sting.

August 1988/Stories include: Savage, Missy Hyatt, Sting, Hayes, Honky Tonk.

September 1988/SPECIAL ISSUE: Color coverage of WMWV, Parade of Champs, Crockett Cup, Plus: Lawler, Von Erich, Hart, Cornette.

October 1988/Stories include: Megapowers vs. Megabucks, Horsemen, Lawler.

November 1988/Stories include: Kerry vs. Lawler, Windham, Luger, Muraco.

December 1988/Stories include: Powers of Pain, Ultimate, Flair, Piper.

January 1989/Stories include: R&R Express, Hogan, Sting, Arn, Kerry-Lawler.

INSIDE WRESTLING

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SCRAPBOOK

(Continued from page 60)



Angelo Mosca Jr. leglocks Ivan Koloff. Mosca upset Koloff to win the Mid-Atlantic title after Dick Slater had given that belt to the Russian.

tling world was stunned when David Von Erich died while on a tour of Japan; he was 25 . . . U.S. champion Dick Slater literally gave his Mid-Atlantic title to Ivan Koloff, saying that Koloff was the only other man in the Mid-Atlantic area deserving of the honor. Soon after, Koloff lost the title to Angelo Mosca Jr. . . . Sweet Daddy Siki won the North American title from Pedro Morales in a steel cage match in Bayamon, Puerto Rico . . . On January 8, Cowboy Bob Orton and Don Kernodle defeated Jimmy Valiant and Dory Funk Jr. in the final round of a tournament to determine new NWA World tag team champions; Gary Hart was their manager . . . Sgt. Slaughter and The Iron Sheik were just beginning their infamous feud . . . In

Tokyo, Jumbo Tsuruta won the AWA World championship from Nick Bockwinkel. It was the first and only time the AWA belt has changed hands in a foreign country . . . The Fabulous Ones—Steve Keirn and Stan Lane—left the Mid-Southern area following a dispute with their manager Jackie Fargo . . . Rick Steamboat announced that he was coming out of retirement to face his old rival, NWA World champion Ric Flair . . . Jim Brunzell broke Sheik Adnan Al-Kaissie's leg in La Crosse, Wisconsin, with a series of spinning toeholds . . . Lord Athol Layton, who wrestled more than 3,500 professional bouts, died of a heart attack in Toronto.

NWA RATINGS: 1—Ric Flair; 2—Dick Slater; 3—Brad Armstrong; 4—Harley Race; 5—Ron Bass; 6—Angelo Mosca Jr.; 7—Kendo Nagasaki; 8—Carlos Colon; 9—Chris Adams; 10—Dory Funk Jr.

AWA RATINGS: 1—Jumbo Tsuruta; 2—Nick Bockwinkel; 3—Blackjack Lanza; 4—Mad Dog Vachon; 5—Brad Rheingans; 6—Blackjack Mulligan; 7—Jerry Lawler; 8—Mr. Saito; 9—Ken Patera; 10—Jesse Ventura.

WWF RATINGS: 1—Hulk Hogan; 2—Paul Orndorff; 3—Tito Santana; 4—The Iron Sheik; 5—Sgt. Slaughter; 6—Jimmy Snuka; 7—Magnificent Muraco; 8—Greg Valentine; 9—Bob Backlund; 10—Masked Superstar.

TAG TEAMS: 1—Cowboy Bob Orton and Don Kernodle; 2—Ken Patera and Crusher Blackwell; 3—The Road Warriors; 4—Mr. Wrestling II and Magnum T.A.; 5—Super Destroyers I and II; 6—Rocky Johnson and Tony Atlas; 7—Elijah Akeem and Kareem Muhammad; 8—Ron Bass and Black Bart; 9—Tony Parisi and Gino Brito; 10—King Tonga and El Gran Apollo.



In 1984, Gary Hart led Don Kernodle and Bob Orton to the NWA World tag team title. They defeated Jimmy Valiant and Dory Funk Jr. in a tournament final.

BACK ISSUES OF



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June 1982/COLOR PINUP: Nick Bockwinkel, Adonis & Ventura, Snuka, Patera, Flair.

August 1982/COLOR PINUP: Dino Bravo, Steamboat & Rich, Andre, Martel, Piper, Blassie.

October 1982/COLOR PINUP: Jerry Lawler, Ric Flair, Rhodes, Graham, Race, Funk Jr.

January 1983/COLOR PINUP: Ken Patera, Rick Steamboat, Rich, Brody, Sullivan, Backlund.

February 1983/COLOR PINUP: Ivan Putski, Rhodes vs. Garvin, Snuka, Super Destroyer, Bockwinkel, Funk.

April 1983/COLOR PINUP: Superstar Graham, Mil Mascaras, Valentine, Ornndorf, Hart.

June 1983/COLOR PINUP: Cowboy Bob Orton, Rick Martel, Von Erich, Slaughter, Muraco.

July 1983/COLOR PINUP: Ivan Koloff, Tommy Rich, Patera, Von Erich, Snuka.

August 1983/COLOR PINUP: Larry Zbyszko, Roddy Piper, Sullivan, Zbyszko, Von Erich, Wrestling II.

October 1983/COLOR PINUP: Junkyard Dog, Tommy Rich, Johnson, Adonis, Rhodes, Piper.

November 1983/COLOR PINUP: Roddy Piper, Harley Race, Santana, Mascaras, Ellering, Valiant, Race.

December 1983/COLOR PINUP: Wahoo McDaniel, Dusty Rhodes, Hayes, Steamboat, Hansen, DiBiase.

January 1984/COLOR PINUP: Harley Race, Rick Martel, Snuka, Freebirds, Dillon, Sawyer.

February 1984/COLOR PINUP: Jim Garvin & Sunshine, Greg Valentine, Super Destroyer, Race, Sawyer, Abdullah.

June 1984/COLOR PINUP: Dick Slater, Ted DiBiase, Wrestling II, Magnum T.A., Patera, Hogan.

July 1984/COLOR PINUP: Paul Ellering, Jimmy Valiant, JYD, Fab Ones, Gagne, Windham.

August 1984/COLOR PINUP: Stan Hansen, Jerry Lawler, Sullivan, Slaughter, Blackwell & Patera, Flair.

October 1984/COLOR PINUP: Billy Jack, Kerry Von Erich, Martel, Blanchard, Fabulous Blonds, Armstrong.

November 1984/COLOR PINUP: Rick Martel, Sgt. Slaughter, Von Erich, Road Warriors, Windham, Rotundo.

January 1985/COLOR PINUP: Tito Santana, Road Warriors, Billy Jack, Hayes, 1984 fan ballot.

February 1985/COLOR PINUP: Magnum T.A., Rick Martel, Hogan, Backlund, Ellering.

April 1985/COLOR PINUP: Ronnie Garvin, Jimmy Snuka, Warriors, Gordy, Flair, Rhodes.

June 1985/COLOR PINUP: Barry Windham, Dusty Rhodes, Slaughter, Hogan, Von Erich, T.A.



MAY 1987

July 1985/COLOR PINUP: Sgt. Slaughter, Hogan vs. Piper, Warriors, One Man Gang, T.A., Martel.

September 1985/COLOR PINUP: Junkyard Dog, Magnum T.A., Von Erich, Hogan, AWA scouting reports.

October 1985/COLOR PINUP: Chris Adams, Rick Steamboat, Warriors, Nikita, WWF scouting reports.

November 1985/COLOR PINUP: Randy Savage, Ric Flair, Slaughter, Steamboat, World Class scouting reports.

December 1985/COLOR PINUP: Jesse Ventura, Great American Bash, Von Erich, Ornndorf, Williams & DiBiase.

January 1986/COLOR PINUP: Hack-saw Duggan, Hulk Hogan, T.A., Brody.

February 1986/COLOR PINUP: Nikita Koloff, Mike Von Erich, Warriors, Santana, Taylor, Barbarian, Race.

April 1986/COLOR PINUP: Ric Flair, Wendell Richter, Adams & Hernandez, Dusty & Warriors vs. Flair & Andersons.

May 1986/COLOR PINUP: Rick Steamboat, Road Warriors, Humongous, Bulldogs, Hansen vs. Martel.

June 1986/COLOR PINUP: Kevin Von Erich, Hulk Hogan, Adams, Duggan, Scott Hall.

July 1986/COLOR PINUP: King Kong Bundy, R & R Express, Hall and Hennig, Ventura, Warriors.

August 1986/COLOR PINUP: Dusty Rhodes, Randy Savage, Lugar vs. Race, Blanchard vs. Flair, Rude.

October 1986/COLOR PINUP: John Studd, Nikita Koloff, Savage vs. Bundy, Landell, Flair vs. Lugar, Simpson.

November 1986/COLOR PINUP: Baby Doll, British Bulldogs, Von Erich, Hansen, Gordy, Flair-Tully-Arn-Ole.

December 1986/COLOR PINUP: Great American Bash, Great American Bash, Midnight Rockers, Von Erich, Windham.

January 1987/COLOR PINUP: Fabulous Freebirds, Roddy Piper, Nikita vs. T.A., Snuka, Simpson.

February 1987/COLOR PINUP: Savage & Elizabeth, UWF Tournament, T.A., Baby Doll, Hogan vs. Ornndorf.

April 1987/COLOR PINUP: Lex Luger, Dusty & Nikita, DiBiase, DeBeers, Dingo, WWF Housecleaning.

May 1987/COLOR PINUP: Steve Williams, Andre-Hogan, UWF Tourny, Alabano, Cornette, Dynamite Kid, Kerr.

June 1987/COLOR PINUP: Hulk Hogan, Magnum T.A., Can-Ams, Warriors, Freebirds, Hall.

July 1987/COLOR PINUP: Midnight Rockers, Steamboat-Savage, Luger, Duggan, Garvins, Sting.

August 1987/COLOR PINUP: Jim Garvin & Precious, Hogan-Andre, Warriors, Windham-Flair, Gordy, Bigelow.

October 1987/COLOR PINUP: Ted DiBiase, Ric Flair, Williams, Rockers, Hogan vs. Steamboat, NWA & WWF.

November 1987/COLOR PINUP: George Steele, Nikita Koloff, Warriors, Harts, Hogan, Windham.

January 1988/COLOR PINUP: The Road Warriors, Ted DiBiase, Flair-Garvins, Hogan & Ventura, Zbyszko.

February 1988/COLOR PINUP: Ronnie Garvin, Randy Savage, Garvin-Flair, Von Erichs, Freebirds.

April 1988/COLOR PINUP: Rick Martel, Lex Luger, Flair-Garvin, Kerry, Survivor Series, Iron Sheik.

May 1988/COLOR PINUP: Sting, Andre, Valentine-Beefcake, Flair, Cornette, Owen Hart.

June 1988/COLOR PINUP: Tully Blanchard, Hulk Hogan, Muraco, Perez, Rockers, Bunkhouse Stampede.

July 1988/COLOR PINUP: Curt Hennig, Hogan vs. Andre, Express vs. Rockers, Beefcake, Perez, Rotundo-Sting.

August 1988/COLOR PINUP: Al Perez, Savage & Hogan, Gilbert-Lawler, Four Horsemen, Kerr Von Erich.

October 1988/COLOR PINUP: Ultimate Warrior, Sting, Savage, Lawler, Williams, Steamboat, Varsity Club.

November 1988/COLOR PINUP: The Midnight Express, Hogan, Rhodes, Express, Powers of Pain.

December 1988/COLOR PINUP: Hack-saw Duggan, Four Horsemen, Brody, Bigelow, Garvin, Precious.

January 1989/COLOR PINUP: Barry Windham, Hogan-Savage-Elizabeth, Warriors, Sting.

February 1989/COLOR PINUP: Jake Roberts, Luger, Hogan-Savage, Kevin Von, Beefcake-Bass.

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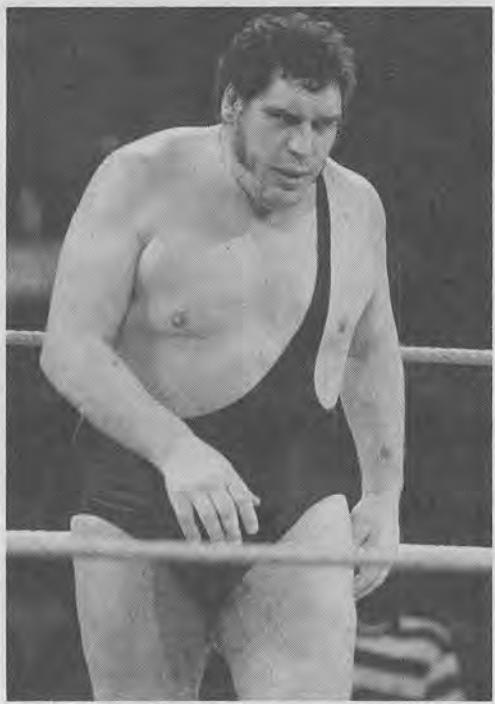
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Wrestling



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263, Sweetwater, TX

2—LEX LUGER

268, Chicago, IL

3—DUSTY RHODES

302, Austin, TX

4—STING

260, Venice Beach, CA

5—RICK STEINER

248, Detroit, MI

6—BAM BAM BIGELOW

368, Mt. Laurel, NJ

7—MIKE ROTUNDO

245, Syracuse, NY

8—STEVE WILLIAMS

265, Norman, OK

9—NIKITA KOLOFF

275, Moscow, Russia

10—EDDIE GILBERT

222, Lexington, TN

WWF*World Champion:***RANDY SAVAGE**

245, Sarasota, FL

1—THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR

280, Queens, NY

2—ANDRE THE GIANT

497, Grenoble, France

3—HULK HOGAN

302, Venice Beach, CA

4—BIG BOSSMAN

348, Cobb County, GA

5—KING HAKU

274, Tonga

6—TED DIBIASE

247, Omaha, NB

7—THE HONKY TONK MAN

255, Memphis, TN

8—BAD NEWS BROWN

280, New York, NY

9—HACKSAW DUGGAN

280, Glens Falls, NY

10—DINO BRAVO

246, Montreal, Quebec

AWA*World Champion:***JERRY LAWLER**

234, Memphis, TN

1—RONNIE GARVIN

231, Montreal, Quebec

2—KERRY VON ERICH

260, Denton, TX

3—GREG GAGNE

220, Robbinsdale, MN

4—WAHOO McDANIEL

280, Midland, TX

5—COL. DeBEERS

248, Cape Town, South Africa

6—MANNY FERNANDEZ

245, El Paso, TX

7—SGT. SLAUGHTER

310, Parris Island, SC

8—JEFF JARRETT

200, Hendersonville, TN

9—THE IRON SHEIK

263, Teheran, Iran

10—MANDO GUERRERO

225, Mexico City, Mexico

WORLD CLASS*World Class Champion:***KERRY VON ERICH**

260, Denton, TX

1—ICEMAN PARSONS

245, St. Louis, MO

2—JERRY LAWLER

234, Memphis, TN

3—JEFF JARRETT

200, Hendersonville, TN

4—SUPER BLACK NINJA

245, Tokyo, Japan

5—ERIC EMBRY

225, Lexington, KY

6—TERRY GORDY

289, Chattanooga, TN

7—KEVIN VON ERICH

235, Denton, TX

8—KENDALL WINDHAM

220, Sweetwater, TX

9—STEVE COX

240, Portsmouth, VA

10—THE BEAST

375, Botswana

TOP 10**1 RANDY SAVAGE**245, Sarasota, FL
WWF World champion**2 JERRY LAWLER**234, Memphis, TN
AWA World champion**3 RIC FLAIR**243, Minneapolis, MN
NWA World champion**4 LEX LUGER**268, Chicago, IL
No. 2 contender: NWA title**5 ANDRE THE GIANT**497, Grenoble, France
No. 2 contender: WWF title**6 BARRY WINDHAM**263, Sweetwater, TX
U.S. heavyweight champion**7 KERRY VON ERICH**260, Denton, TX
World Class heavyweight champion**8 HULK HOGAN**302, Venice Beach, CA
No. 3 contender: WWF title**9 STING**260, Venice Beach, CA
No. 3 contender: NWA title**10 THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR**280, Queens, NY
WWF Intercontinental champion**TAG TEAMS****1 THE ROAD WARRIORS**Combined weight: 567 pounds
NWA World tag team champions**2 DEMOLITION**Combined weight: 585 pounds
WWF World tag team champions**3 STAN LANE & BOBBY EATON**Combined weight: 453 pounds
No. 1 contenders: NWA tag team title**4 PAT TANAKA & PAUL DIAMOND**Combined weight: 456 pounds
AWA World tag team champions**5 THE FANTASTICS**Combined weight: 462 pounds
No. 1 contenders: U.S. tag team title**6 JACQUES & RAYMOND ROUGEAU**Combined weight: 490 pounds
No. 1 contenders: WWF tag team title**7 THE HART FOUNDATION**Combined weight: 515 pounds
No. 2 contenders: WWF tag team title**8 THE SAMOAN SWAT TEAM**Combined weight: 510 pounds
World Class & Texas tag team champions**9 MICHAEL HAYES & STEVE COX**Combined weight: 495 pounds
No. 1 contenders: WCCW & Texas tag team titles**10 TULLY BLANCHARD & ARN ANDERSON**Combined weight: 484 pounds
No. 4 contenders: WWF tag team title

OFFICIAL RATINGS

Top 10 and Tag Team ratings are based on won-lost records for the past month, quality of opposition, and inherent skill of each wrestler or team. These ratings are compiled by the magazine's editorial board. Most Popular and Most Hated ratings are based on nationwide telephone and arena surveys of wrestling fans and on the volume and character of mail that comes to our offices. All other ratings are based on the official current positions of challengers to the top title in each category; certain titleholders receive an automatic spot in the ratings.

MOST POPULAR

1	RANDY SAVAGE
245, Sarasota, FL	Last month: No. 1 Most Popular
2	HULK HOGAN
302, Venice Beach, CA	Last month: No. 2 Most Popular
3	STING
260, Venice Beach, CA	Last month: No. 3 Most Popular
4	HACKSAW DUGGAN
280, Glens Falls, NY	Last month: No. 6 Most Popular
5	LEX LUGER
268, Chicago, IL	Last month: No. 4 Most Popular
6	THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR
280, Queens, NY	Last month: No. 5 Most Popular
7	DUSTY RHODES
302, Austin, TX	Last month: No. 7 Most Popular
8	JERRY LAWLER
234, Memphis, TN	Last month: No. 8 Most Popular
9	KERRY VON ERICH
260, Denton, TX	Last month: No. 10 Most Popular
10	JAKE ROBERTS
246, Stone Mountain, GA	Last month: No. 9 Most Popular

MOST HATED

1	BIG BOSSMAN
348, Cobb County, GA	Last month: unrated
2	ANDRE THE GIANT
497, Grenoble, France	Last month: No. 1 Most Hated
3	RIC FLAIR
243, Minneapolis, MN	Last month: No. 2 Most Hated
4	BARRY WINDHAM
263, Sweetwater, TX	Last month: No. 4 Most Hated
5	TED DiBIASE
247, Omaha, NE	Last month: No. 3 Most Hated
6	RICK RUDE
246, Robbinsdale, MN	Last month: No. 5 Most Hated
7	THE HONKY TONK MAN
255, Memphis, TN	Last month: No. 6 Most Hated
8	KEVIN SULLIVAN
252, Boston, MA	Last month: No. 7 Most Hated
9	COL. DeBEERS
248, Cape Town, South Africa	Last month: unrated
10	RONNIE GARVIN
231, Montreal, Quebec	Last month: No. 9 Most Hated

For period ended November 11, 1988

CUMULATIVE RATINGS

These ratings are based on the past 10 issues of this magazine. We have examined our ratings for each of those issues—in our Top 10 and Tag Team categories only—and assigned each position a point value: 10 points for a number-one rating, nine for a number-two ranking, and so on down to one point for a number-10 rating. The point values for all wrestlers in the past 10 issues have been compiled, allowing a maximum of 100 points. Each issue we'll present the top five finishers in each category. While our regular ratings reflect the past month, these cumulative ratings give an indication of wider trends in the sport.

SINGLES

1—RIC FLAIR	94 points
2—RANDY SAVAGE	83 points
3—LEX LUGER	63 points
4—JERRY LAWLER	56 points
5—STING	47 points

TAG TEAMS

1—THE ROAD WARRIORS	77 points
2—BOBBY EATON & STAN LANE	76 points
3—DEMOLITION	73 points
4—TULLY BLANCHARD & ARN ANDERSON	67 points
5—THE FANTASTICS	48 points

STAMPEDE

North American Champion:

MAKHAN SINGH

380, Saginaw, MI

1 —JOHNNY SMITH
235, Manchester, England
2 —LANCE IDOL
225, Hollywood, CA
3 —BRUCE HART
211, Calgary, Alberta
4 —CHRIS BENOIT
218, Edmonton, Alberta
5 —STEVE BLACKMAN
250, Pittsburgh, PA
6 —VULKAN SINGH
300, Billings, MT
7 —GAMA SINGH
220, Karachi, Pakistan
8 —JERRY MORROW
235, Martinique
9 —STEVE DiSALVO
298, Boston, MA
10 —BEEF WELLINGTON
225, Lloydmaster, Alberta

CWA

CWA Champion:
PHIL HICKERSON
257, Jackson, TN
1 —JEFF JARRETT
200, Hendersonville, TN
2 —BRICKHOUSE BROWN
225, Winter Haven, FL
3 —JIMMY VALIANT
251, New York, NY
4 —ROBERT FULLER
238, Dyresburg, TN
5 —TOMMY RICH
248, Hendersonville, TN
6 —SCOTT STEINER
235, Detroit, MI
7 —BILL DUNDEE
214, Melbourne, AUS
8 —JIMMY GOLDEN
235, Montgomery, AL
9 —GARY YOUNG
240, Houston, TX
10 —CACTUS JACK
247, Truth or Consequences, NM

CONTINENTAL

Continental Champion:

TOM PRICHARD

220, Houston, TX

1 —TONY ANTHONY
235, Bucksnorth, TN
2 —JERRY STUBBS
242, Pensacola, FL
3 —RON FULLER
238, Dyresburg, TN
4 —KEN WAYNE
208, Memphis, TN
5 —WILLIE B. HERT
238, El Paso, TX
6 —LORD HUMONGOUS
325, parts unknown
7 —BRAD ARMSTRONG
226, Marietta, GA
8 —KOKINA
340, Samoa
9 —DAN DAVIS
238, Nashville, TN
10 —THE BULLET
234, parts unknown

ICW

ICW Champion:

JOE SAVOLDI

225, Parsippany, NJ

1 —JONATHAN BOYD
240, New Zealand
2 —DUNGEON MASTER
260, parts unknown
3 —TONY ATLAS
247, Roanoke, VA
4 —JOHNNY CANINE
240, Pittsburgh, PA
5 —VIC STEAMBOAT
230, Honolulu, HI
6 —BOSTON BAD BOY
280, Boston, MA
7 —MOONDOG SPOT
250, parts unknown
8 —CHIEF GATOR WOLF
240, Phoenix, AZ
9 —THE THING
225, parts unknown
10 —SCOTT PUTSKI
230, Austin, TX

RATINGS ANALYSIS

Every month, this column will tell fans how we go about rating more than 135 wrestlers in 12 different categories. It is a behind-the-scenes look at the most important—and respected—ratings system in the sport. This column is vital reading for all wrestling fans.

A new number one! The Road Warriors, who earned their first NWA World tag team championship with a victory over The Midnight Express on October 29 in New Orleans, have regained the top spot in our tag team ratings for the first time since the July 1988 issue of *Sports Review Wrestling*. Since then, the Warriors have been rated as low as third, their position for the past two months. The Midnights, who had been rated number one, fell two spots to number three; Demolition remains at number two.

"The fact that Animal and Hawk are the best tag team in the world has never eluded us," said Editor-in-Chief Stu Saks. "It's just that it was hard to justify putting them on top when they hadn't held a world title for so long. But now that they're champs, they deserve the top spot."

A new number two! Ric Flair has been defending his NWA World title infrequently over the past few months against a limited number of challengers (mainly Sting and Lex Luger, with a rare defense against Rick Steiner thrown in). Jerry Lawler, on the other hand, has defended his AWA World title nearly every night against a wide range of challengers from several federations.

With that in mind, Lawler has moved up a notch to number two in the Top 10 ratings, displacing Flair, who dropped a notch. Incredibly, this marks the first time since the Top 10 ratings were first introduced back in 1983 that the AWA champion is rated above the NWA champion!

A first-timer. That's the ICW—International Championship Wrestling—which takes center stage in our revolving ratings category for the first time. The ICW runs cards throughout the country, including Canada, most of New England, New Jersey, New York, Arizona, and Florida. The champion is Joe Savoldi, son of ICW promoter Mario Savoldi. Other stars are Vic Steamboat, brother of Rick Steamboat, and Scott Putski, son of Ivan Putski.

Intercontinental ratings: Back in the September 1988 "Ratings Analysis," we introduced ratings for the WWF Intercontinental and U.S. titles. Since then, there have been several important changes in the I-C picture, so we thought this would be a good time to take another look at these ratings. A brief analysis follows.

WWF INTERCONTINENTAL TITLE



Ultimate Warrior

*Intercontinental Champion:
THE ULTIMATE WARRIOR
280, Queens, NY*

- 1—THE HONKY TONK MAN
255, Memphis, TN
- 2—BRUTUS BEEFCAKE
273, San Francisco, CA
- 3—BAD NEWS BROWN
280, New York, NY
- 4—DINO BRAVO
246, Montreal, Quebec
- 5—JAKE ROBERTS
246, Stone Mountain, GA

The Ultimate Warrior stormed the ring to take the belt away from The Honky Tonk Man at SummerSlam. Since then, these have been the only two men in the I-C picture. Warrior's title defenses have been exclusively against Honky Tonk, while Honky Tonk has made regaining the belt his only priority ... Warrior substituted for an injured Brutus Beefcake when he won the belt; since then, Beefcake has been left out in the cold. It's unlikely that Beefcake will ever get a shot at the Warrior, since the WWF traditionally doesn't schedule fan favorite vs. fan favorite matches. So, Beefcake must hope that either Honky Tonk regains the belt, or the WWF changes its policy ... Bad News Brown has been outstanding since WrestleMania IV, but doesn't appear to have what it takes to win the World title. It's been rumored that Brown will soon change his direction and go after the Warrior ... Dino Bravo is involved in a war with Hacksaw Duggan, but he also has his eyes on the I-C belt ... Jake Roberts, another fan favorite, is unlikely to get a shot at the Warrior, although he certainly earned one with an outstanding series of matches against Rick Rude. As we said last time, Roberts perfectly fits the mold of an I-C champion.

How about those Warriors? Do you agree with our decision to make them number one in the tag team ratings? Does Jerry Lawler deserve the number-two spot in the Top 10? We'd like to know what you think. The address for mail is: "Ratings Analysis," c/o *Sports Review Wrestling*; Box 48; Rockville Centre, NY; 11571. □

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